JÜRGEN KLOPP • SADIO MANE • ALISSON • HENDO'S 10 YEARS • EURO 2020 • MATT BEARD • YOUTH CUP

LIVERPOOL FC

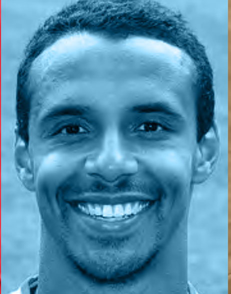




















"IT'S ONLY FOOTBALL, BUT IT MEANS THE WORLD TO US"

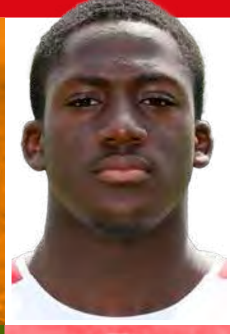


Looking back at a mad season for Klopp's Reds and looking forward to **Ibrahima Konate...**

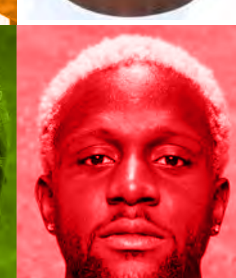
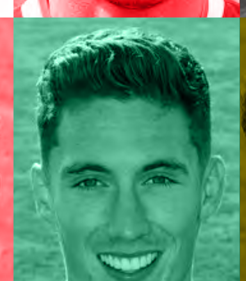










Official Liverpool FC Monthly Magazine
LFC Mag Jul 21 £4.50
07
9 771478 304167
liverpoolfc.com



ROBBIE FOWLER BOOK COMPETITION WINNERS:

T Skinner, Hailsham
C Worswick, Liverpool
S Adams, Belfast
K Blain, Denbigh
R Davies, Wrexham

CONTENTS

Reach Sport
Acting Editor/Writer Chris McLoughlin
Editor David Cottrell
Assistant Editor William Hughes
Production Editor Michael McGuinness
Design Colin Sumpter
Contributors Dave Ball, Ged Rea
Photography Getty Images, Press Association, Mirrorpix, Liverpool Echo, John Powell, Andrew Powell, Nicholas Taylor © Liverpool Football Club & Athletic Grounds Ltd.
Published by Reach Sport Managing Director Steve Hanrahan Commercial Director Will Beedles Executive Art Editor Rick Cooke Executive Editor Paul Dove
Marketing & Communications Manager Claire Brown
Printed by William Gibbons
Email liverpoolfcmag@reachsport.com
To subscribe visit www.reachsportshop.com

He gets the ball he scores again

The delayed Euro 2020 tournament is underway, but can any of the Liverpool contingent emulate Fernando Torres? El Niño became the first LFC player to score the winner in a European Championship final with this clipped finish for Spain against Germany at Euro 2008 in Vienna. You can still find THAT Nike advert on YouTube, too...




TORRES
9
LAHM
16



Der, der, der der der der, Gini Wijnaldum

“It looks like it’s going to be my last game,” said Gini Wijnaldum after being given a standing ovation as he left the Anfield pitch against Crystal Palace. “The only regret I probably will have is that I couldn’t leave with a title or a prize, that would be really, really good for me, for the fans and for everyone. I love this club a lot. I will be a Liverpool supporter for life.” Gini made 237 appearances for LFC across the last five seasons, scoring 22 goals. He’ll be remembered as a key player, a major trophy-winner and for THAT Barcelona game. Good luck, Gini.


standard chartered
5


L.F.C.
standard
chartere

SADIO *says*

Liverpool FC forward Sadio Mane talks team-mates, music, holidays, his homeland and, of course, his football with the Mighty Reds...

FOOTBALLING IDOLS

I had two idols. First of all Ronaldinho and then our Senegal player El Hadji Diouf, who was a former Liverpool player too. The first football shirt I had was not even Ronaldinho, it was El Hadji Diouf when I was in Senegal and I still remember the day that I got it. I received it from one of my friends. He came to my house wearing it and I said to him, 'well, you know how obsessed I am about him, can you please give me this shirt?' It was not easy for him to give it up but finally he gave it to me and I was really proud. I think I wore it almost every day! Sometimes my Mum was not happy with me about it and would say, 'why are you always wearing this shirt? You need to wash it!'

TOP TUNES

I am really enjoying Joeboy at the moment because I really like Nigerian music so much and Tanzanian music too because I really like Diamond Platnumz as well. That is another of my favourites right now.

BEST MATES

Here at Liverpool? Well I think I am close to everyone so for me it would be difficult to say who is my best friend, honestly. I think I have a really good relationship with all the boys and I'm very happy to be able to say that!

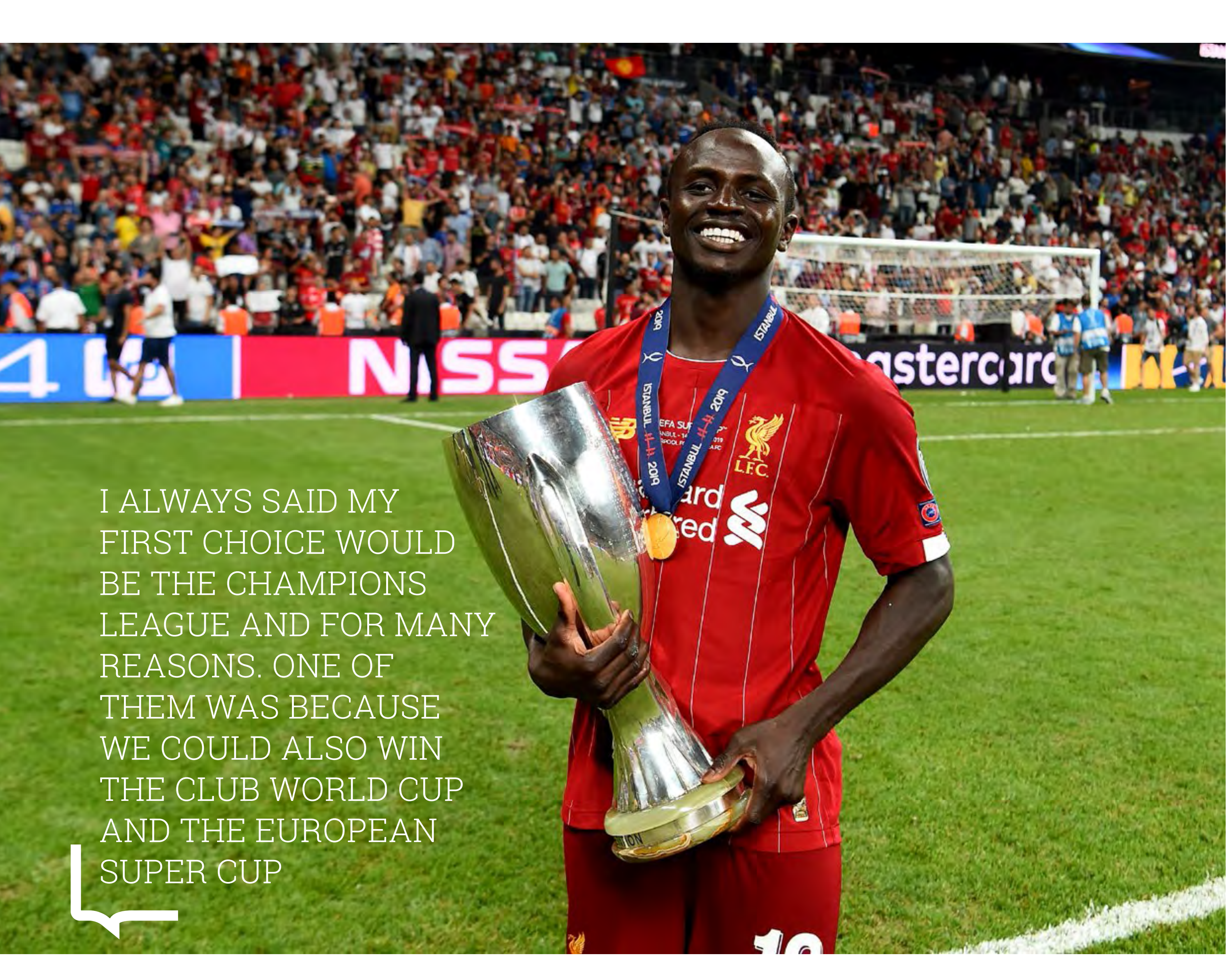
HOLIDAY DESTINATION

For me, that's difficult because I would definitely say my home town [Bambali in southern Senegal]. But if you're pushing me for somewhere else, I'll say Spain because I really like Mallorca. I love it there. In terms of somewhere I've never been before? I quite fancy the Bahamas.

DIOGO'S DEBUT SEASON

I think everyone can see how helpful Diogo [Jota] has been for the team and he's done well in his first season and scored goals which sometimes we have been lacking. He came in and he has delivered for us which is really important. I think every team needs this kind of player and we are lucky to have him. We are really happy to have him as a team-mate and, for sure, we will try to help him to score more goals for the team and help us more.





CHAMPIONS LEAGUE OR PREMIER LEAGUE?

When I first came to Liverpool, this question was always mentioned to me. I think I was the only one who disagreed with the fans because they all wanted to win the Premier League, but I always said my first choice would be the Champions League and for many reasons. One of them was because we could also win the Club World Cup and the European Super Cup, so by winning the Champions League you can also win another two trophies! Thankfully, at the end of the day, we also won the Premier League – for us and for the supporters – so I think that was really good and, in the end, everyone was happy.

WINNING THE PREMIER LEAGUE

I think winning the Premier League was one of the best memories I have had so far at Liverpool. I think it would be really complicated for me to explain how it was for me and how happy the people were on that day. I think you had to be with the lads, but I think it was one of the greatest days in Liverpool's history. It was one of the best days in the club's story to end that wait after 30 years. I think it was just amazing and it came at the best time. It was what the fans needed, what the football club needed and what the players needed. It was just a big thing for us.

GIVING SOMETHING BACK

It has always been important to me to give something back to people in Senegal. I come from a very, very small village. You would have to go there to see where I came from and how life is for those people. Today, thank God, I am really happy with my situation and life in general so, for me, I think it is really important to give back what they have given me: my God, my life, my village. As I have always said until the day I can't, I will give everything for those people because, without them, maybe I would not be here as a Premier League footballer today. Only God knows and so that's why it's really important for me to share the things I have with them. For me, it's the most important thing. Like I say, it's where my life began and I know the reality of how the people need things and that's why it's one of the most important things to do. I will try to do everything possible to be a blessing for them.

YES, MISTER MANE!

I didn't see myself ever doing anything else than football because, since I was young, I always said: 'If I cannot be a football player, then what can I be?' So what would I have done other than football is a tough question for me, because I don't know what I'd have done. But my parents knew already, they wanted me to become a teacher or something like that!

300 CLUB

I was told that Mo Salah, Bobby Firmino and myself have now scored 300 goals for Liverpool. What is the secret? I think that it's all about Liverpool Football Club. All the players, all the staff and all the people around us make everything easier to put us in the very best condition to only think about football. They work especially hard for us to show what we can do on the pitch and try to help the football club with all our team-mates to do what we can to try and enjoy success.

THE GAFFER

I think when you talk to the manager, you can see how human he is and that he's a really, really nice person. He is open, always willing to discuss things with people and I think he is the man behind the club's success, for sure. We just try to do what he's asking all the time and try to put it into practice and I think the rest just comes naturally. I am really happy, proud and at the same time, lucky, to work with this amazing guy. He is certainly the best coach I have worked with. I am really happy here and I'm doing everything possible for the club. Hopefully we are going to enjoy more success in the next few years.

ANDY ROBBO

I think for me playing with Robbo down the left-hand side is very easy because he is a great player and playing alongside great players makes everything easier. I think this understanding came naturally because he knows where to be when I have the ball. And when he has the ball, I also know where to be. In the meantime we are always training together and speaking about how to develop as players as well as a group and I think that makes things easier for us.



UPS AND DOWNS

Last season was definitely a tough one. I think with losing such great players as we did, any team in the world would struggle. Losing one of the best defenders in the world in Virgil and then also Hendo and Fabinho for a while too, as well as Joe Gomez and Joel Matip, for any team that wouldn't be easy. I'm not someone who likes to find excuses, but I think this is for sure far from a normal situation. But I think as well we have seen some really talented young players, especially Ozan [Kabak], Nat Phillips and Rhys Williams who did really well for us at the back. As a striker you can see that we struggled at times, especially myself, but I am always someone who is very, very positive. In life it can happen and it had never happened to me before since I've been at Liverpool. That shows that there are ups and downs and highs and lows in life. But, as a team, we tried to work harder and harder to be successful again. We had to stick together. With five games to go, we knew they were all crucial for us and that every single one was going to be a final for us. We wanted to win them all because, of course, our big target was to play in the next Champions League. With the team we have I thought it was possible and we did everything possible to achieve it.



AS A STRIKER YOU CAN SEE THAT WE STRUGGLED AT TIMES, ESPECIALLY MYSELF, BUT I AM ALWAYS SOMEONE WHO IS VERY, VERY POSITIVE. IN LIFE IT CAN HAPPEN AND IT HAD NEVER HAPPENED TO ME BEFORE SINCE I'VE BEEN AT LIVERPOOL

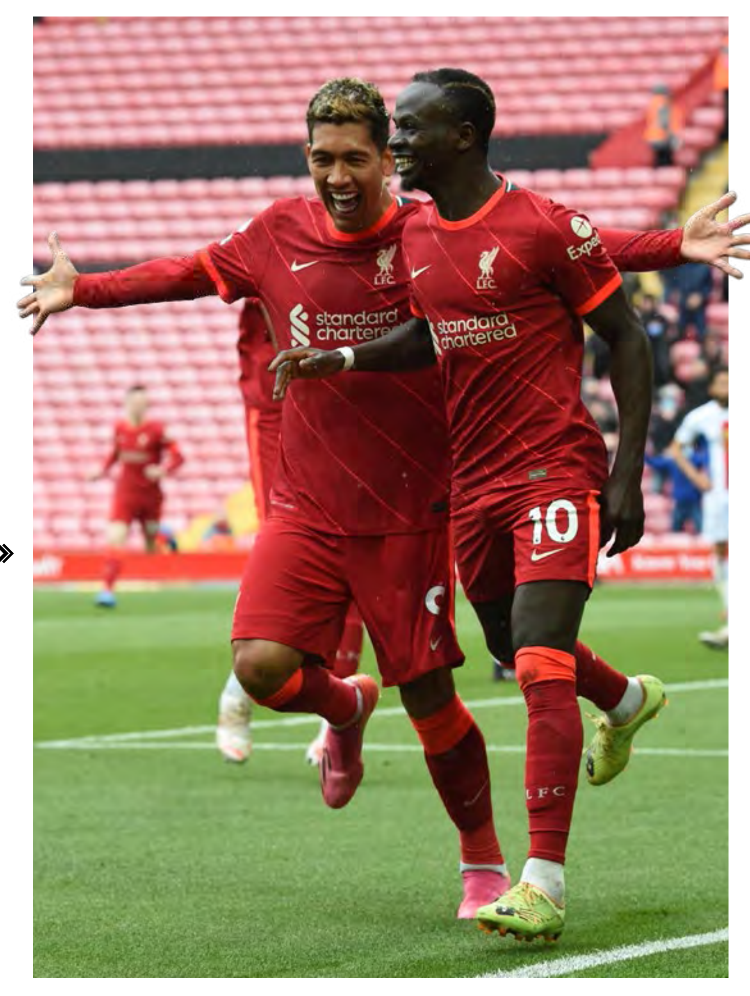
GOAL CELEBRATION

Sometimes goal celebrations just come naturally and other times I just do something on the spur of the moment and couldn't really tell you why I was doing it! Then after the game, I think, 'Oh, I was doing the same thing again?!' I'm always joking with Bobby that he copies me, but I always copy him because he has the best celebrations.

BEST DEFENDERS

Who is the best defender I have faced in the Premier League? I think it would be better if I told you in secret because if I told you now, he would always be ready against me! Or better, I'll keep it quiet! I've faced a few tough defenders, some of the best in their position in the world. But that's normal in the Premier League and in Europe. It was always my dream to play against these kind of defenders and to see if it was my level and also to help me improve and become a better player. But I think it would be better if I kept the secret!





SADIO'S SALVO

Sadio Mane went into the crunch clash with Crystal Palace with seven of his 95 Liverpool goals having been scored against the Eagles, more than any other club. He struck two more against the south London side to take his Premier League tally for the Reds into double figures for the fifth successive season since signing from Southampton in 2016. Mane calmed nerves inside Anfield when he opened the scoring in the 36th minute, sweeping home from close range after Andy Robertson's corner had been flicked on by Rhys Williams for Roberto Firmino to play into his path. And he then sealed the success which secured Champions League football in 2021/22. With 16 minutes remaining, Sadio collected a Mohamed Salah pass and steadied himself before firing a left-footed shot past goalkeeper Vicente Guaita at the Kop end via a deflection from centre-back Gary Cahill.

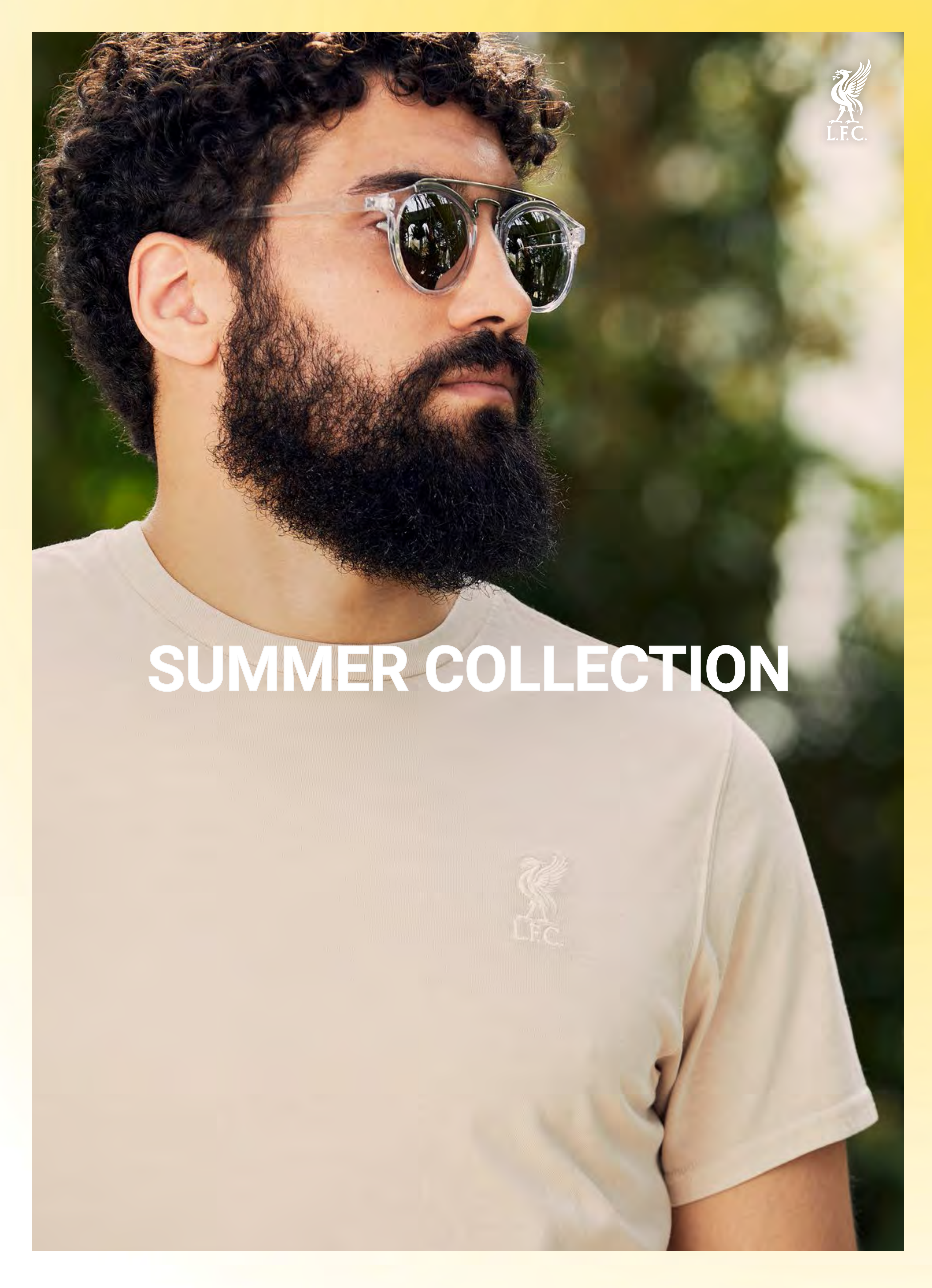
FINAL FIVE

After drawing against Leeds and Newcastle we knew that we had to do what we could to stop dropping points in the last minutes which happened to us in both those games. I thought we played really, really well in both but just lacked a bit in front of goal to be honest and we missed many chances. Of course, it is us players who are to blame for that. I think if us as a front three had scored the goals we should it would've completely changed those games. We always try to work as hard as we can on the training ground, but sometimes when the games come, we don't know why this [the missed chances] is happening. It is out of keeping with how we have traditionally been but as I say, this is part of football and we know that it can also change at any time by making sure that we are working hard every single day. I'm a hard worker and I wanted to try to change this situation because I want to help us. Every player was the same and fortunately we managed to do that.

TOP THREE FINISH

I think with the team that we have and how we are right now, not playing in the Champions League next season would have been a big blow. That's why it was really important for us with the way that we stuck together and did everything possible to stay positive. Thank God, we have a team who are really positive. We tried to take it game by game and we always thought it was possible. We believed that and now we can look forward to playing in the next Champions League. We can now look at it in the respect that we have won the Champions League, then the Premier League and will be playing in the Champions League again despite a difficult season, which I think is good.





In-store & online **liverpoolfc.com/store**


Standard
Chartered

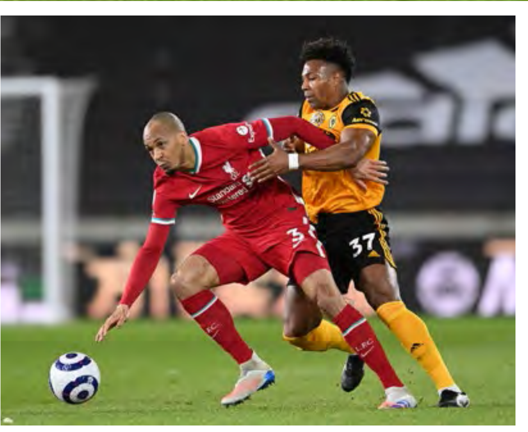
"It's been a tough period for many reasons. We are champions and we will fight like champions, until the very end. We will not allow this season to be defined by the recent results we've had. That is my promise to all of you"

Liverpool had just lost calamitously at Leicester City when Mo Salah posted that rallying-call Tweet on Valentine's Day, Sunday 14 February, and there was worse to come. In the Premier League the Reds would win at Sheffield United, but lose their next three home games, to Everton, Chelsea and Fulham.

It meant that by the end of Premier League match week 27, with 28 fixtures played (the Chelsea game was brought forward) and ten remaining, Jürgen Klopp's team were in eighth place, seven points adrift of a Champions League spot and with the three sides directly ahead of them having a game in hand.

"Liverpool," reflected the BBC's online match report, "have the weary look of a team who cannot wait for the season to finish."

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Man City	29	21	5	3	61	21	+40	65
2 Man United	28	15	9	4	55	32	+23	54
3 Leicester City	28	16	5	7	48	32	+16	53
4 Chelsea	28	14	8	6	44	25	+19	50
5 West Ham	27	14	6	7	42	31	+11	48
6 Everton	27	14	4	9	39	35	+4	46
7 Tottenham	27	13	6	8	46	28	+18	45
8 Liverpool	**28**	**12**	**7**	**9**	**47**	**36**	**+11**	**43**








Standard Chartered
15
万博



WOLVES 0 LIVERPOOL 1
Monday 15 March

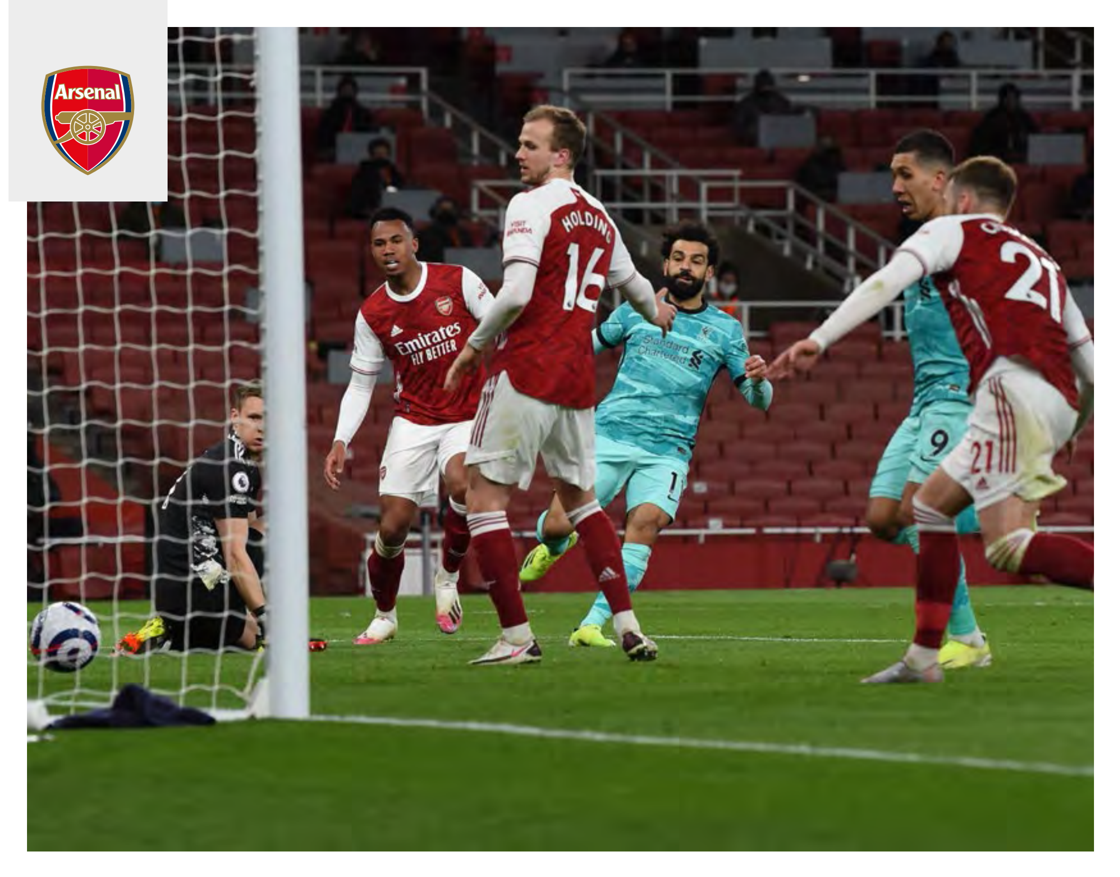
Diogo Jota scored the only goal on his first return to Molineux as the Reds picked up what the boss called "three dirty points" at Wolves.

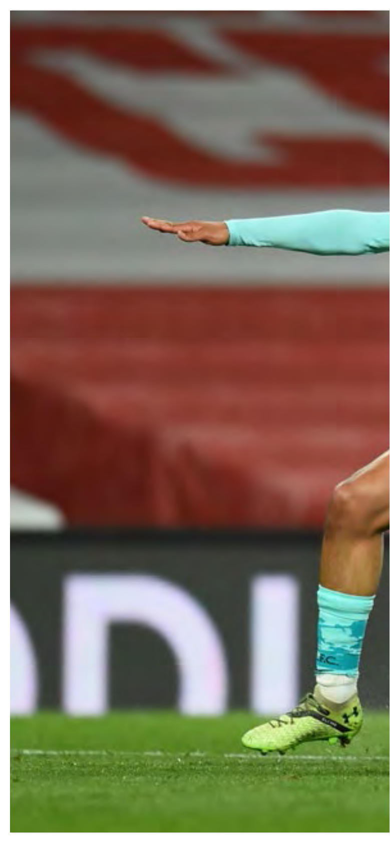
The Portuguese ace fired past former team-mate Rui Patricio on the stroke of half-time, following good interplay with Mo Salah and Sadio Mane, to notch his first goal since returning from injury. It was also his 11th Premier League strike at Molineux – only Raul Jimenez has scored more.

Mane, Jota and Ozan Kabak all had opportunities to give Liverpool a bigger win while an offside flag denied Salah late in the second half in an incident that saw home keeper Patricio stretchered off with concussion following a collision with Conor Coady. The game was held up for 15 minutes, but thankfully Wolves boss Nuno Espirito Santo later reported that he was okay.

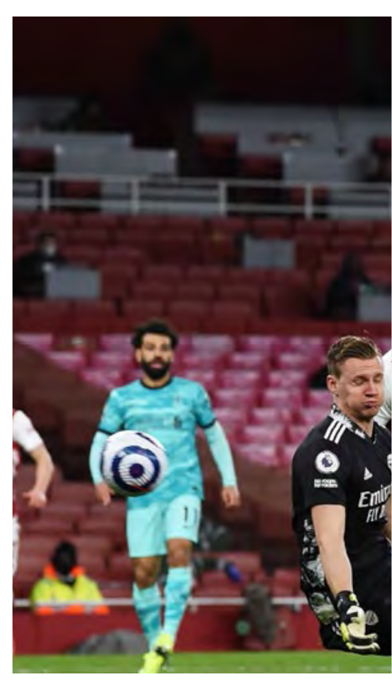
"It's all about the result," manager Jürgen Klopp said at full-time. "A big fight. If we want three dirty points, I'm fine with that. We had very good moments where we should have done better. Defensively the whole game was really good. We wish Rui Patricio all the best."

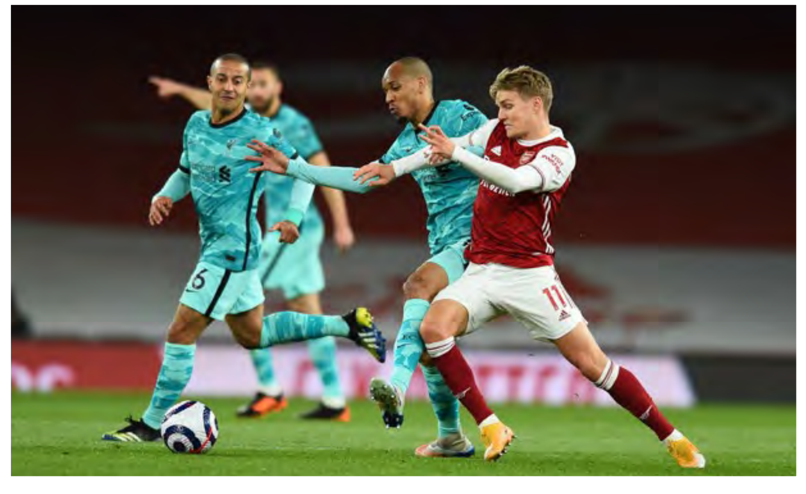
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Man City	30	22	5	3	61	19	42	71
2 Man Utd	29	16	9	4	56	32	24	57
3 Leicester City	29	17	5	7	53	32	21	56
4 Chelsea	29	14	9	6	44	25	19	51
5 West Ham	28	14	6	8	42	32	10	48
6 Liverpool	29	13	7	9	48	36	12	46
7 Everton	28	14	4	10	40	37	3	46
8 Tottenham	28	13	6	9	47	30	17	45


HOLDING
16
Emirates
FLY BETTER
21




Standard Chartered
20
3
11











ARSENAL 0 LIVERPOOL 3
Saturday 3 April

This time Jota came off the bench to score twice as the Reds recorded their biggest-ever top-flight away win at Arsenal.

The Portuguese international had only been on the pitch for three minutes when he powerfully headed a magnificent Trent Alexander-Arnold cross past Bernd Leno to give Liverpool a well-deserved lead.

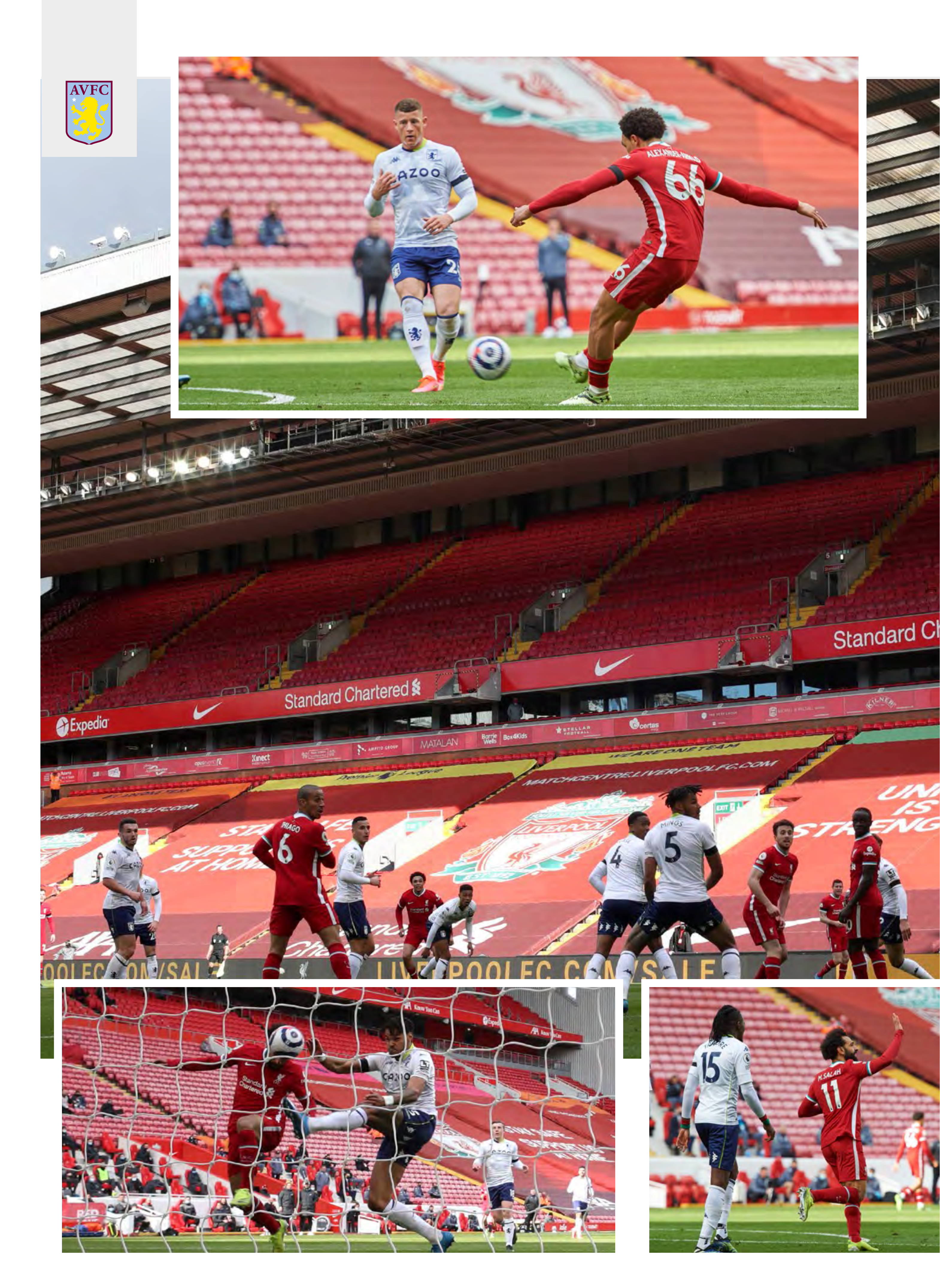
Mo Salah got Liverpool's second when he ran onto a Fabinho pass and evaded a challenge from Gabriel before composedly slotting the ball between Leno's legs. And the Reds sealed a superb Saturday-night success in North London when Alexander-Arnold won possession, Salah slipped a pass to Sadio Mane and he teed up Jota to fire the ball into the back of the Gunners net.

With the moustachioed Alisson having little to do at the other end, Jürgen Klopp was delighted with a comprehensive 3-0 win: "As a package it was a good performance. We finished our situations off.

"Arsenal were not really in the game for the whole 95 minutes. That was down to us. We had to work hard and when you do that you have a good chance of winning."



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Man City	31	23	5	3	66	21	45	74
2 Man Utd	30	17	9	4	58	33	25	60
3 Leicester City	30	17	5	8	53	34	19	56
4 West Ham	30	15	7	8	48	37	11	52
5 Chelsea	30	14	9	7	46	30	16	51
6 Tottenham	30	14	7	9	51	32	19	49
7 Liverpool	**30**	**14**	**7**	**9**	**51**	**36**	**15**	**49**
8 Everton	29	14	5	10	41	38	3	47


AVFC
ALEXANDER-ARNOLD
66
Standard Chartered
Expedia
MATALAN
MATCHCENTRE.LIVERPOOLFC.COM
THIAGO
6
MINGS
5
M.SALAH
11





LIVERPOOL 2 ASTON VILLA 1
Saturday 10 April

Trent Alexander-Arnold curled home a stoppage-time winner as the Reds came from behind to win their first game at Anfield in 2021.

The Liverpool right-back brilliantly guided the ball into the net from the edge of the penalty area, after Thiago's volley from Xherdan Shaqiri's cross was blocked by Emiliano Martinez, to secure three vital points in the race for Champions League qualification.

Villa took a first-half lead through Ollie Watkins before Roberto Firmino had an equaliser disallowed for offside against Diogo Jota, following another contentious VAR call.

Mo Salah headed the Redmen level after Andy Robertson's shot was palmed out towards him by Martinez, but there was a let-off for Liverpool when Mo's Egyptian international team-mate Trezeguet hit the inside of Alisson's post.

As the clock ticked into the 91st minute Alexander-Arnold won it with his first Anfield goal of the season and Jürgen Klopp was a relieved man.

"These three points feel really big," he admitted. "We had lost the last six home games, which is really not a nice number and not one we want to have. So that was massive and felt massive and it's really relieving."

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Man City	32	23	5	4	67	23	44	74
2 Man Utd	31	18	9	4	61	34	27	63
3 Leicester City	31	17	5	9	55	37	18	56
4 West Ham	31	16	7	8	51	39	12	55
5 Chelsea	31	15	9	7	50	31	19	54
6 Liverpool	31	15	7	9	53	37	16	52
7 Tottenham	31	14	7	10	52	35	17	49
8 Everton	30	14	6	10	41	38	3	46













LEEDS UNITED 1 LIVERPOOL 1
Monday 19 April

A late Diego Llorente goal denied Liverpool all three points at Elland Road after Sadio Mane had given the Reds the lead. He netted just after the half-hour mark following fine combination play between Diogo Jota and Trent Alexander-Arnold which drew Leeds goalkeeper Illan Meslier out of his goal.

The Reds failed to capitalise on other goalscoring opportunities to put the game to bed. Thiago, Roberto Firmino and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain all had shots saved, Jota headed over and Mo Salah dragged an effort wide, but Leeds also created chances.

Patrick Bamford hit the crossbar and Alisson made good saves from Bamford and Jack Harrison before Llorente headed home an 87th-minute corner to give Marcelo Bielsa's side a share of the spoils.

"If you saw Leeds more often maybe then you know how tricky it is to play against them," said Jürgen Klopp. "We caused them a lot of problems, scored a wonderful goal and could have scored others, but we didn't do that.

"When you are that long one-nil up, it's quite frustrating when you don't get it over the line."

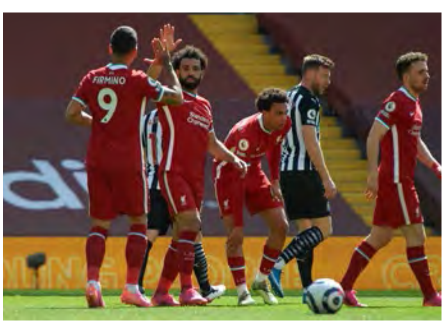
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Man City	33	24	5	4	69	24	45	77
2 Man Utd	32	19	9	4	64	35	29	66
3 Leicester City	32	18	5	9	58	37	21	59
4 Chelsea	32	15	10	7	50	31	19	55
5 West Ham	32	16	7	9	53	42	11	55
6 Tottenham	33	15	8	10	56	38	18	53
7 Liverpool	**32**	**15**	**8**	**9**	**54**	**38**	**16**	**53**
8 Everton	31	14	7	10	43	40	3	49


UNITY
IS
MURPHY


Standard
Chartered









LIVERPOOL 1 NEWCASTLE UNITED 1
Saturday 24 April

The Reds paid for missing a glut of goalscoring opportunities when substitute Joe Willock's deflected 95th-minute equaliser earned Newcastle a point at Anfield.

On-loan Willock's strike came just moments after fellow sub Callum Wilson had a goal disallowed by VAR for handball and left Liverpool with just one win in eleven games at Anfield in all competitions.

Mo Salah gave Liverpool the lead in the third minute with a shot on the turn following some outstanding close control for his 20th Premier League goal of the season, but Salah, Roberto Firmino, Diogo Jota and Sadio Mane all missed further chances to score.

Alisson saved well from Sean Longstaff and Joelinton but was powerless to stop Willock's effort after it deflected off Fabinho.

"I didn't see us today playing like we deserve Champions League next year," admitted Jürgen Klopp. "In these games we have had chances like madness and we didn't use them.

"Who is to blame for that apart from us? Nobody. We learn or we don't play Champions League."

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Man City	33	24	5	4	69	24	45	77
2 Man Utd	33	19	10	4	64	35	29	67
3 Leicester City	33	19	5	9	60	38	22	62
4 Chelsea	33	16	10	7	51	31	20	58
5 West Ham	33	16	7	10	53	43	10	55
6 Liverpool	**33**	**15**	**9**	**9**	**55**	**39**	**16**	**54**
7 Tottenham	33	15	8	10	56	38	18	53
8 Everton	32	15	7	10	44	40	4	52


A.BECKER
1



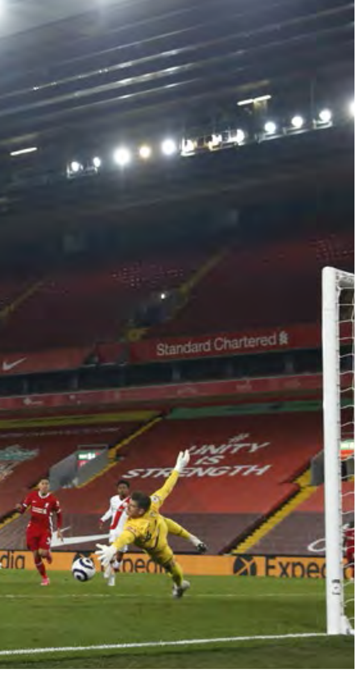

Standard Chartered




FORSTER
44

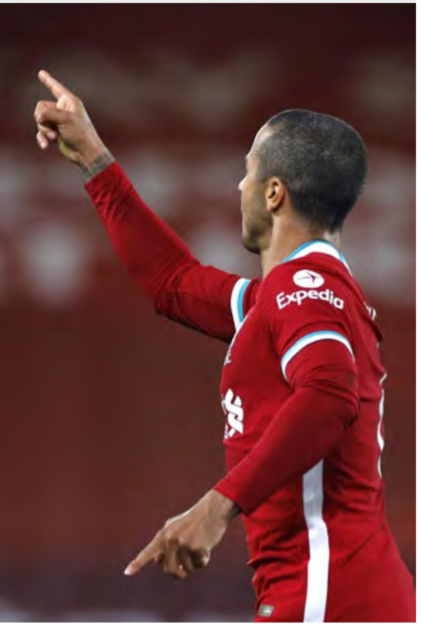












LIVERPOOL 2 SOUTHAMPTON 0
Saturday 8 May

Thiago scored his first goal for Liverpool to seal a 2-0 win against Southampton. The Spanish international curled a low shot into the Kop-end net in the 90th minute on an evening when the Reds were indebted to goalkeeper Alisson for making six saves – the most he'd made in any Premier League game since signing for Liverpool in 2018.

Gini Wijnaldum headed against the crossbar and Saints keeper Fraser Forster denied Diogo Jota and Mo Salah before the Reds took a first-half lead.

Less than 30 seconds after Alisson bravely blocked Che Adams at one end, Sadio Mane rose above Kyle Walker-Peters to head home Salah's cross at the other. Mane also had a goal disallowed for offside before Thiago secured the points late on.

"We really needed that," admitted Jürgen Klopp, who was without ten players including five centre-backs through injury.

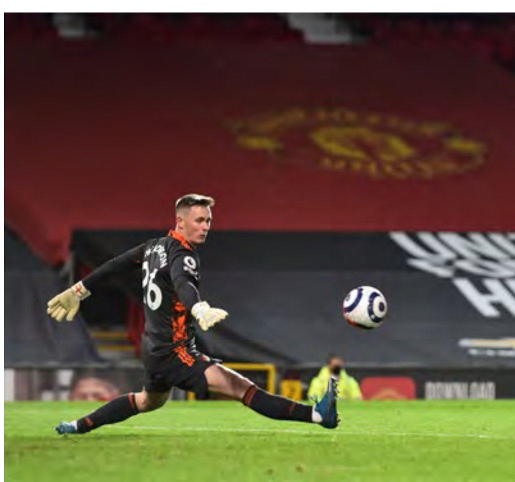
"We scored the first – that's very important. In the moment when we conceded in the last games the equaliser, we scored the second and that's the big difference."

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Man City	35	25	5	5	72	26	46	80
2 Man Utd	34	20	10	4	67	36	31	67
3 Chelsea	35	18	10	7	55	32	23	64
4 Leicester City	35	19	6	10	63	43	20	63
5 West Ham	35	17	7	11	55	45	10	58
6 Liverpool	**34**	**16**	**9**	**9**	**57**	**39**	**18**	**57**
7 Tottenham	35	16	8	11	61	41	20	56
8 Everton	34	16	7	11	46	42	4	55


LINDELOF







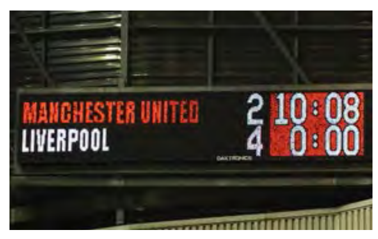












MANCHESTER UNITED 2 LIVERPOOL 4
Thursday 13 May

Roberto Firmino netted twice as Liverpool won at Old Trafford for the first time under Jürgen Klopp.

Centre-back Nat Phillips deflected a Bruno Fernandes shot past Alisson before winning a penalty that was overturned by a VAR review. Diogo Jota equalised with a brilliant back-heel flick from a Phillips shot and Firmino headed the Reds in front from Trent Alexander-Arnold's free-kick.

Firmino struck again after the break when Dean Henderson fumbled Alexander-Arnold's shot, while Jota rattled the woodwork. Marcus Rashford got United back into it and there was a nervy moment when Phillips cleared off the line from Mason Greenwood before Rhys Williams blocked the rebound.

Mo Salah then sealed a famous victory with a 90th-minute breakaway goal from a Curtis Jones pass.

It was Salah's 124th goal on his 200th appearance for the Reds and manager Klopp was delighted with the win: "Great fight, good game, intense – all derbies should be – and my first win at Old Trafford.

"Good timing, I would say. We needed it. We deserved it. It was very intense."

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Man City	35	25	5	5	72	26	46	80
2 Man Utd	36	20	10	6	70	42	28	70
3 Leicester City	36	20	6	10	65	44	21	66
4 Chelsea	36	18	10	8	55	33	22	64
5 Liverpool	**35**	**17**	**9**	**9**	**61**	**41**	**20**	**60**
6 West Ham	35	17	7	11	55	45	10	58
7 Tottenham	35	16	8	11	61	41	20	56
8 Everton	35	16	8	11	46	42	4	56









WEST BROM 1 LIVERPOOL 2
Sunday 16 May

Alisson became the first Liverpool goalkeeper to score in the club's 129-year history when he powerfully headed home a dramatic 95th-minute winner from Trent Alexander-Arnold's corner.

There were emotional celebrations and afterwards Alisson gave his first interview since the tragic death of his dad. "I hope my father is watching and celebrating somewhere," he said. "God put his hand on my head today."

West Brom had taken the lead through Hal Robson-Kanu, but Mo Salah equalised with snapshot after Sadio Mane won possession. Captain Roberto Firmino struck a post, both sides had goals disallowed for offside, Alexander-Arnold and Gini Wijnaldum put good chances over and the outstanding Thiago had a shot saved before Alisson produced the moment of the season to keep the Reds' top-four hopes alive.

"What a goal, what a worldie," said Jürgen Klopp. "Unbelievable goal. The technique, absolutely insane.

"If Olivier Giroud scores a goal like this everybody says it's a world-class goal. When Alisson is doing it, we have to say the same. It is an absolutely perfect moment."

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Man City	36	26	5	5	76	29	47	83
2 Man Utd	36	20	10	6	70	42	28	70
3 Leicester City	36	20	6	10	65	44	21	66
4 Chelsea	36	18	10	8	55	33	22	64
5 Liverpool	**36**	**18**	**9**	**9**	**63**	**42**	**21**	**63**
6 Tottenham	36	17	8	11	63	41	22	59
7 West Ham	36	17	8	11	56	46	10	59
8 Everton	36	16	8	12	46	43	3	56











BURNLEY 0 LIVERPOOL 3
Wednesday 19 May

Nat Phillips headed his first Liverpool goal and was outstanding at the back as the Reds won 3-0 in front of 3,387 fans at Burnley to put Champions League qualification in their own hands as Leicester lost at Chelsea on the same midweek.

Sadio Mane, Chris Wood and Thiago all missed opportunities to open the scoring for their respective teams before Roberto Firmino met Andy Robertson's cross to put the Reds 1-0 up.

Turf Moor proved to be a happy place for Phillips as he headed home a Mane cross to become Liverpool FC's 400th different top-flight goalscorer and then denied Burnley a goal by heading off the line.

The Reds also improved their goal-difference to plus-4 better than top-four rivals Leicester City when Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain rifled home his first goal of the season two minutes from time.

Following the wins at Manchester United and West Bromwich Albion, the Reds had now won three away top-flight games in a seven-day period for the first time ever and manager Jürgen Klopp remained focused. "Today was a semi-final," he said.

"We had to win the semi-final and we did. Nothing is decided yet, but we improved our position and we have the final."

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Man City	37	26	5	6	78	32	46	83
2 Man Utd	37	20	11	6	71	43	28	71
3 Chelsea	37	19	10	8	57	34	23	67
4 Liverpool	**37**	**19**	**9**	**9**	**66**	**42**	**24**	**66**
5 Leicester City	37	20	6	11	66	46	20	66
6 West Ham	37	18	8	11	59	47	12	62
7 Tottenham	37	17	8	12	64	43	21	59
8 Everton	37	17	8	12	47	43	4	59





LIVERPOOL 2 CRYSTAL PALACE 0
Sunday 23 May

"We went through a lot this season," reflected Mo Salah hours after Liverpool had sealed third place and Champions League qualification with victory over Crystal Palace at Anfield.

"The empty stadiums, coupled with the great hurdles we faced, would have shattered any other team. Not us. We came third. And never stopped believing."











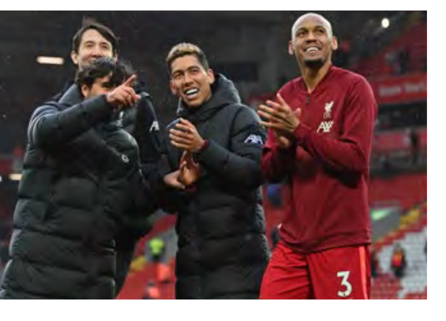
Ten thousand fans made it feel like a full house as Sadio Mane scored in each half to complete a remarkable 10-game turnaround for Jürgen Klopp's side.

The Reds had taken 26 points from a possible 30 to overhaul rivals Leicester and Chelsea who lost to Tottenham and Aston Villa respectively on the final day of the season.

It also meant that Liverpool, who wore their new Nike kit against Roy Hodgson's Eagles, had now finished in the top four in all five of their full seasons under Klopp.

"This is big," the Liverpool manager said. "If someone had told me five or six weeks ago that we would finish the season in third, I would have said it was impossible.

"It was absolutely out of reach. But the good thing this year is how we responded when we didn't feel good because too many things happened to us."

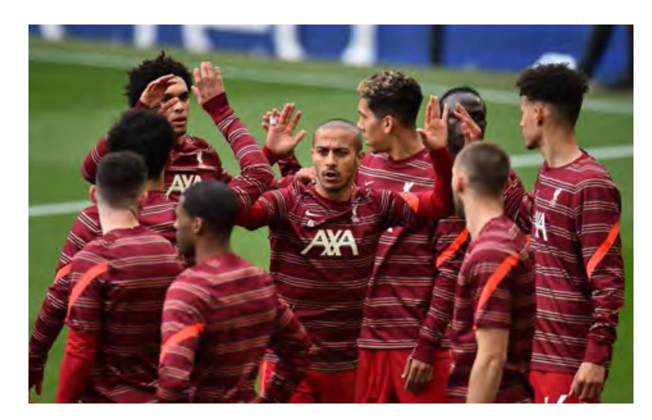


	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Man City	38	27	5	6	83	32	51	86
2 Man Utd	38	21	11	6	73	44	29	74
3 Liverpool	**38**	**20**	**9**	**9**	**68**	**42**	**26**	**69**
4 Chelsea	38	19	10	9	58	36	22	67
5 Leicester City	38	20	6	12	68	50	18	66
6 West Ham	38	19	8	11	62	47	15	65
7 Tottenham	38	18	8	12	68	45	23	62
8 Arsenal	38	18	7	13	55	39	16	61

“WE STUCK TOGETHER ALL THE TIME”



What Reds boss Jürgen Klopp told a post-match press conference at the end of the final game of a rollercoaster 2020/21 season



JÜRGEN ON: THE ACHIEVEMENT OF FINISHING THIRD, GIVEN THE PROBLEMS FACED THROUGHOUT THE SEASON...

It's big, it's big. If someone would have told me weeks ago – five, six, eight, 10 weeks ago – that we can finish the season in third, that was absolutely out-of-reach and felt impossible.

Even the good things when they happened this year didn't feel too good very often because too many things around happened. The injuries was a subject that followed us through the whole year and that was really tough to take...

The steps [Nat Phillips and Rhys Williams] made this year, they should be really very proud of because it is absolutely a different level now, that's really nice to be part of that.

For the whole team, fighting through this and finishing third is the best lesson you can learn for life. I couldn't be more happy that I was around when that happened again.

From nowhere to the Champions League in five weeks is a massive achievement as I see it and I think that's right.

JÜRGEN ON: GINI WIJNALDUM'S LEGACY...

He is a very friendly, very smart, very open person, and that never changed, that just improved. Yes, it is very emotional for me because I lose a friend and I will miss him, that's how it is. But it's normal in football that these kind of things happen – it's not always nice, but normal, and I am really sure he will find a great place.

He was not only always available, he played 90 per cent of the time really, really good.

So many top, top-class performances. Now, it looks like the time is over but everything will be fine and nobody can take our memories from us. We will share them forever and that's really great. I told him that after the game, he sees it the same way and the goodbye would not be tough if the time you had together was not worth it. So, it's really tough because we had a great time together.

JÜRGEN ON: WHERE THIS SEASON RANKS DURING HIS TIME AT LIVERPOOL...

It's great, it's absolutely great, it's outstanding. From outside you cannot really understand because we are just Liverpool: we have to perform, we have to win, we have to become champion or whatever.

It was not possible for us this year so you have to fight through and in the harder moments you can learn the most – in the harder moments you can show the most and we really stuck together all the time.

There was no argument or whatever about different things, we just knew some things are tough [and] we have to improve. That's true, we have to, but football is a game based on confidence and we had not a lot of opportunities to gain confidence. We were constantly sorting problems and that's so nice to see that we could use the last five, six, seven weeks to give this season a proper turnaround.

I'm really happy for the Champions League that they don't have to play without us! So, we are in it, that will be great, can't wait for that. Outstanding achievement from the boys.

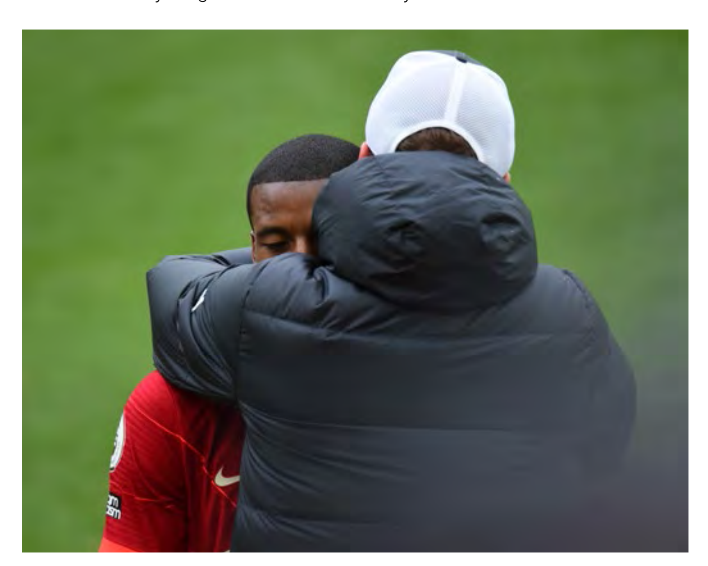
Man City has, rightly so, won the league, a great season and congratulations again. But because we cannot be champion that does not mean we have no targets and the target was then, from a specific point, European football. And that's now Champions League, that's really good.

JÜRGEN ON: THE EMOTIONS OF THE SEASON...

I cannot sum it up. Too much happened, to be honest. But to have the opportunity to do this, to have this last game in front of 10,000 people means really the world to us.

And I have to say, I don't want to blame the other 45,000 who are usually here but the 10,000 did a really good job today. When we came out it felt like, 'Oh, it's sold out!' That was absolutely incredible, it was so nice to have this experience again together.

Everything is better when the people are in the stadium and we are better when the people are in the stadium, that's how it is. We can fight more when people are in the stadium because they support us, they give us a boost, they help us. That we did it without them makes the achievement even bigger, to be honest, but I don't want to try it a second time, if I am 100 per cent honest!






SATURDAY 13TH

GRAHAM'S GUARD OF HONOUR

Reds CEO Billy Hogan presented kit man Graham Carter with his own Champions Wall memento after he saw the Reds win every major trophy over the last four decades before his retirement...

Following the final game of the season against Crystal Palace at Anfield, Liverpool FC made a special presentation to kit man Graham Carter, who has retired after more than 35 years of service.

Graham's association with the club began in 1977 as the team's coach driver when he joined St Helens-based firm Ellisons. He was sent to pick up Bob Paisley's team on his first day and took the position on a full-time basis in 1986.

In 1999, Gerard Houllier offered him the chance to work at Melwood and he has been responsible for managing all the team's kit requirements since.

Writing in his programme notes for the game, manager Jürgen Klopp said: "Mr Graham Carter, who has been with this amazing club for decades, retires after today. What a guy. What an important person for LFC. I will miss his pre-match hugs like you won't believe.

"Graham loves a holiday so I think we will miss him maybe more than he misses us - but I can't wait to see him at Anfield as a supporter, with his grandchildren. They can be so proud of their Grandpa for what he has done in his career."

Captain Jordan Henderson later posted a photograph of the pair together in the dressing-room on Instagram, captioning the picture: "A special goodbye to Graham Carter who has been kit man for over 30 years and an incredible servant to this football club. People like Graham are what makes this club what it is and I wish him the happiest retirement. YNWA"

The players and staff marked Graham's dedicated years of service with a guard of honour when they returned to the pitch after the full-time whistle ahead of their lap of appreciation. And Klopp then led a somewhat reluctant Carter towards the Kop where he received a fine ovation.

"It was surreal. It was strange working," he said after Liverpool's 2-0 win. "It was only when I read the programme – I normally get to the ground early and I was reading the programme – and I read the boss' notes and Jordan Henderson's notes, all praising me. Just overwhelming. I'm thankful for everything the club has done for me, I've really enjoyed my time here but now is the time for me to leave and enjoy myself with my family."

Everyone connected with Liverpool FC would like to wish Graham all the best for a very happy retirement.





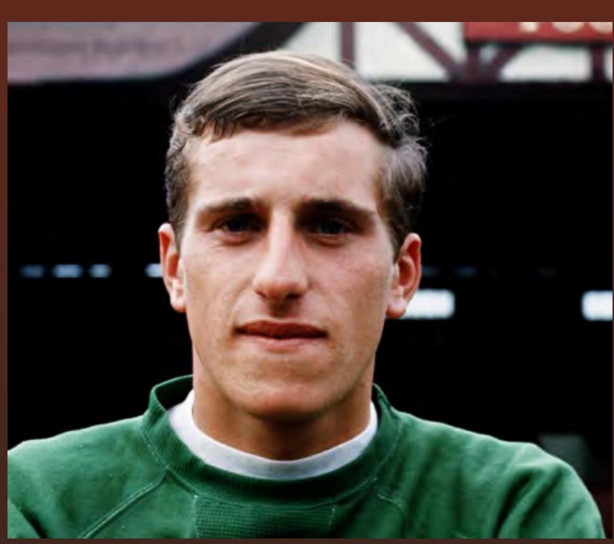
REDS REMEMBERED

2020/21 was also a season when we said farewell to two legendary players, a revolutionary Liverpool manager and the Scouser who gave us our anthem...

Ray Clemence

5 August 1948 – 15 November 2020

Thirteen years. 665 appearances. 323 clean sheets. Five league titles. Three European Cups. Two UEFA Cups. One FA Cup. One League Cup. One UEFA Super Cup. And one massive street art tribute on the side of a house in Wylva Road, Anfield. Ray Clemence is Liverpool Football Club's greatest ever goalkeeper. Signed from Scunthorpe United in 1967, Clem learned his trade in the Reds' Reserves for two years before becoming LFC's no.1 and only missing six games in 11 seasons. Athletic, agile, brave, quick – Clemence was everything a world-class goalie should be. RIP Ray.



Gerard Houllier

3 September 1947 – 14 December 2020

From teaching at Alsop Comprehensive school and standing on the Kop watching the Reds in 1969 to leading Liverpool FC to an unprecedented treble of trophies in 2001, Gerard Houllier was the man from France who made us dance. Appointed as the club's first non-British or Irish manager, initially alongside Roy Evans, in 1998, Houllier modernised Liverpool by mixing local players with continental signings and oversaw the redevelopment of Melwood. He was a revolutionary figure for LFC and his treble of UEFA Cup, FA Cup and League Cup remains unmatched 20 years on. RIP Gerard.





Gerry Marsden

24 September 1942 – 3 January 2021

In November 1963, Scouse musician Gerry Marsden's cover version of Rodgers & Hammerstein's *You'll Never Walk Alone* – written for Broadway musical Carousel – was played directly before kick-off at two Anfield games when top of the charts. Kopites embraced it and began to sing it before every match. 58 years later, YNWA remains Liverpool FC's powerful, emotional, unifying anthem. Born and raised in Liverpool 8 and lead singer of Gerry & The Pacemakers, Gerry Marsden's voice will forever provide the soundtrack for the lives of all of us who walk on with hope in our hearts. RIP Gerry.



Ian St John

7 June 1938 – 1 March 2021

The Saint will eternally be remembered as the scorer of Liverpool's first FA Cup final winning goal against Leeds United in 1965. Signed from Motherwell for a club-record fee in 1961, Ian St John was one of the cornerstones of Bill Shankly's Anfield revolution – a spark that ignited a flame – and Kopites adored him, singing his name to the famous 'St John handclap'. The Scottish international forward scored 118 goals in 425 games for the Reds and also won two league titles during a decade of service. As Shankly himself put it: "In the beginning was St John." RIP Saint.



"I can't be more happy than I am now"

Alisson Becker on his never-to-be-forgotten contribution to the Reds' run-in at both ends of the pitch!



Words: William Hughes

Just when you think you've seen it all, football throws up another moment that captivates the soul.

At The Hawthorns last month, Alisson Becker became the first goalkeeper in Liverpool FC's 129-year history to score in a competitive fixture.

The circumstances around his goal were such that even the script writers of Roy of the Rovers would have probably rejected such a storyline on the grounds of it being too far-fetched.

On a personal level, Alisson suffered heartache in February when his father Jose passed away in a tragic accident at Lavras do Sul. With the COVID-19 travel embargoes in place, he was unable to return home for the funeral.

On a professional level, Liverpool's hopes of securing a place in next season's Champions League appeared to be slipping through their fingers.

Just days after going to Old Trafford and registering a superb 4-2 win against Manchester United, the Reds were on the brink of being held to a 1-1 draw by Sam Allardyce's relegated West Bromwich Albion for the second time in the season. With the likely requirement of needing to win all their remaining matches, time appeared to be up when Sadio Mane forced an injury-time corner.

Alisson glanced towards the bench, trying to catch the eye of goalkeeping coach John Achterberg.

"I looked at my watch, 94, and I thought it was going to be the last kick of the game, we needed to win, so I shouted, 'Get up, get in the box!' to him!," Achterberg recalls. "I didn't see Ali looking to the bench to see if he should go up before I shouted; I just thought we had nothing to lose and we needed to put everything into the box we had."

Liverpool rolled the dice...and the gamble paid off.

Here's how Daily Telegraph reporter John Percy described a moment that will become etched into LFC folklore.





I looked at my watch, 94, and I thought it was going to be the last kick of the game, we needed to win, so I shouted, 'Get up, get in the box!' to him!

"Deep into added time here, with desperation gripping like wet rope, Alisson brilliantly headed home to maintain Liverpool's pursuit of Champions League qualification. Alisson became the first goalkeeper in Liverpool's long and illustrious history to score after powering Trent Alexander-Arnold's corner past Sam Johnstone to spark scenes of wild celebration on the visitors' bench.

"The Brazilian was mobbed 90 seconds later by jubilant team-mates after the final whistle, and rewarded with a huge bear hug by manager Jürgen Klopp, after a remarkable finish. What an emotional, magical moment it would've been for Alisson, who lost his father three months ago and revealed after the match that he wished he had been here to witness it."

Speaking after the game, Klopp admitted: "I've never seen anything like that, good technique! I wasn't sure what I was seeing.

"The way the players celebrated show how much they like him. It couldn't happen to a nicer person, a more special person, after what he's been through this season. He is a wonderful person, funny, smart, thoughtful and intense in moments.

"We are really close with Alisson. It's outstanding, really touching. It's only football, but it means the world to us.

"My part of the goal is I didn't shout to stay back! He went there and what a goal, it's incredible. We have already seen it 10 times back in the dressing-room."

Left-back Andy Robertson described how much it also meant to the rest of the team.

"We're all emotional for him, so I don't know what he's feeling right now," said Robbo. "It's been a horrible year for everyone, but for him it's been incredibly tough. Obviously with losing his Dad and not being able to go back to Brazil...he's been showing his family support in different ways – his Mum and everyone like that.

"You could see the emotion with him at the end and I think he deserves it. He's been outstanding all season, but especially the last couple of weeks. You know, we wouldn't have got the results without him.

"Of course we would rather not be relying on him scoring goals in the last minute, but what a way to win a game and I'm so happy for him and all his family because I imagine there will be lots of tears with him and, like I say, it's been a really emotional time for them.

"It's a moment you won't forget, especially him and his family. His Dad is looking over him, clearly. I know how much of a family man Ali is and how close he is to his wife, his kids and all his family. I can't imagine what this kind of year has been like with not being able to get home and everything like that.

HEAD BOY

Soon after his history-making winner at West Bromwich Albion, Alisson spoke to Sky Sports. Here's what he had to say in an emotional first interview since his father Jose passed away in February.

Give us an insight into your emotions right now?

Oh, I'm too emotional with these last months with everything that has happened to me and my family, but football is my life and I have played since I can remember as a human being, with my father. I hope he was here to see it but I'm sure that he saw it with God at his side and was celebrating. Its for my family, for the boys – what a fight. Sometimes we are fighting and things are just not happening as this afternoon here. Just scoring this goal, I am really, really happy to help them because they fight a lot. We fight a lot together and we have a strong goal to achieve the Champions League because we won it once and you know that everything starts with the qualification, so I can't be more happy than I am now.

Time's up, 94 minutes have gone and the ball goes out for a corner. Can you tell us what happens next? Who decides that you go up?

I tried to look at the bench but nobody called me and then Johnny, Johnny Achterberg called me with conviction. And then it was the perfect time, the cross was brilliant again and I just tried to put my head on the ball and I think it was one of the best goals I saw! It is the best I have scored...this is the only one I've scored! I'm really happy. I don't have too many words. I just want to say thank you for the players because they fight a lot, we fight, I fight a lot as well. We train, we are really exhausted from this season because there is a lot of pressure, a lot of everything. Everything happened but we were missing the goal and I'm happy that tonight I was able to help us get a win.



LEAGUE APPEARANCES/CLEAN SHEETS BY LFC GOALKEEPERS

Name	Apps	CS	%
Ray Clemence	470	226	48%
Bruce Grobbelaar	440	184	41%
Elisha Scott	430	126	29%
Arthur Riley	322	63	20%
Tommy Lawrence	306	98	32%
Pepe Reina	285	134	47%
Sam Hardy	219	56	26%
David James	214	72	34%
Simon Mignolet	155	50	32%
Cyril Sidlow	149	47	32%
Jerzy Dudek	127	49	39%
Ken Campbell	125	30	24%
Tommy Younger	120	34	28%
Bill Perkins	107	34	32%
Harry Storer	102	37	36%
Alisson Becker	100	44	44%

"He's welcomed a new baby boy into his life as well [born just days before the game at West Brom], so it's been an incredibly emotional time for the Beckers and I think this tops it off today.

"I'd ask for two clean sheets off him in the next two games and then he can go back and spend some real good time with his family because he needs it. It's emotional for all of us but for him it's just incredible, especially the year he's had."



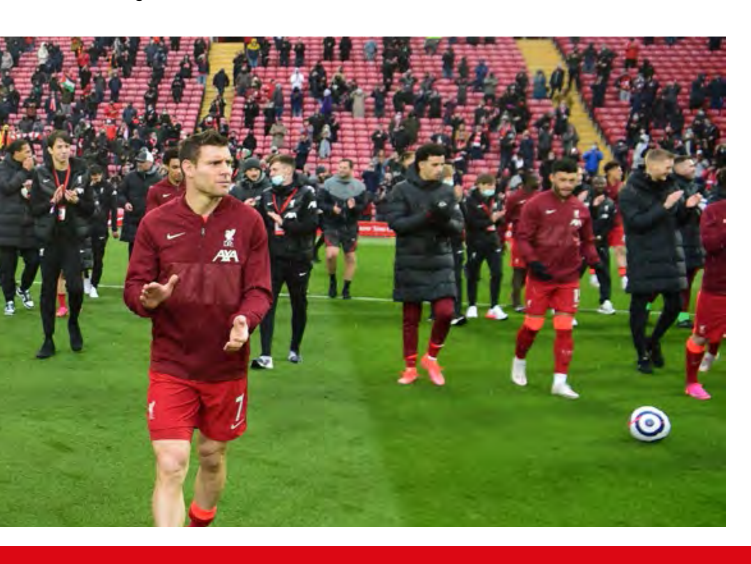
The run in the last 10 games was very pleasing. I think at some point we started to play more relaxed. We had nothing to lose and then we started to look and play that way with more confidence and built that confidence again

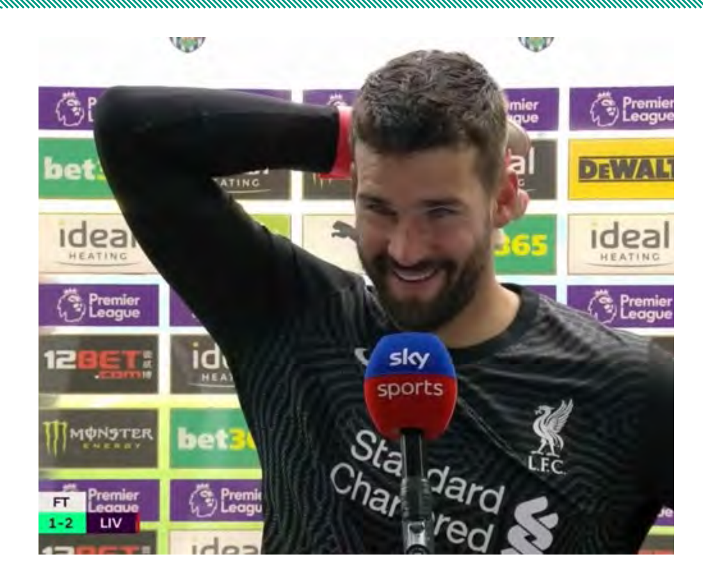
Alisson did indeed deliver those last two clean sheets as Liverpool defeated Burnley and Crystal Palace to secure Champions League football next season after finishing a testing 2020/21 campaign in third place. No team took more points than Liverpool in the final 10 matches of the season with eight wins and two draws, a haul of 26 points aided by some important saves at the other end of the field from the Reds' remarkable no1.

"This afternoon was a good way to finish this season," he said after Liverpool's 2-0 victory over Palace. "Sometimes when you need the result obviously the team starts to get a little bit nervous, but we were calm enough to keep playing and do everything we needed to do to get the three points and get in the Champions League, which was our main goal.

"The run in the last 10 games was very pleasing. I think at some point we started to play more relaxed. We had nothing to lose and then we started to look and play that way with more confidence and built that confidence again.

"It was a hard season for us with the players we lost in the beginning of the season, in the middle of the season, always changing the team and so it was really difficult to get confidence, but the way we finished was the most important thing and a good sign for us for the next season."





It was a great header. Do you practice your heading?
Sometimes. In the training sessions with the crosses and you are just waiting for your try. If you are there and the ball comes to you, then you try to do something just to have fun. I don't train it to do that in the game! This happened, but I have at least a sense of how to head a ball because I do that a lot in the games to help defensively. You can't explain those kind of things. This is football!

What are you thinking when the ball is coming over? Is there a split second when you think, 'this is coming onto my head'?
Yeah, yeah. I saw it. I saw it coming. I just tried to run in a good place, to be in a good position to try to help my players to bring a defender, but nobody I think followed me and I was lucky and blessed to score. Those kind of things you can't explain. You can't explain a lot of things in life. For me, the only reason for those kind of things is God and He put his hand on my head today and yes, I am feeling really blessed.

It was a really emotional celebration with everything that you've been through?
Yes, I've been away from interviews for a long time. It was a difficult time because always when I talk about it, I get emotional on that. But I just really want to thank all of you, all the Premier League, all the players I received letters from...managers, from teams, for example Everton and Ancelotti....all the players at Man City, Chelsea, I don't want to be not fair with the others that I don't remember, but I just want to say thank you to everybody, for the supporters, for the team. If it wasn't for you, I could never get through this because I am just away from my mother since the thing happened. My wife has been amazing with me, my kids give me energy. This is how we feel the love from God, this is the way God loves us, through people, and He shows that every time, every day. But I just want to say thank you at this moment. As for the celebration, I don't know how to celebrate, hey?! And hopefully I don't have to come so many times to the box to score a goal, hopefully our players will do that for me and I just have to think about defending and to help them in that.

He left the field following the final day victory against Palace at Anfield to cries of 'Alisson, Alisson, Alisson' from the 10,000 supporters inside the stadium.

"It was really nice to hear them again. It was surprising that it was 10,000 only because it was really loud and it looked like a full house! We were really happy to see the supporters. When we played without them we could feel also the support, but what we do on the pitch we do for them as well as for our families and ourselves because we love football.

"Our main goal next season is to give them trophies again and that will be our aim when we start again."

The Palace game marked another statistical milestone for the 28-year-old. It was Alisson's 100th league appearance for the club, a feat previously achieved by 15 other Liverpool goalkeepers, and his 44 clean sheets during those games puts him just six shut-outs away from moving into joint-10th on the list alongside predecessor Simon Mignolet.

When it comes to goalscoring goalies, however, Alisson is Liverpool's number one and he has an award to prove it after his Hawthorns header was voted LFC Goal of the Season for 2020/21 in a liverpoolfc.com poll.

Which feels like a fitting way to end the strangest of seasons.



SIX IN THE MIX

THE PREMIER LEAGUE'S GOALSCORING GOALIES

PETER SCHMEICHEL FOR ASTON VILLA AT EVERTON, OCTOBER 2001
The Dane volleyed in at the back post from a corner, but Villa lost 3-2 at Goodison Park.

BRAD FRIEDEL FOR BLACKBURN ROVERS AT CHARLTON ATHLETIC, FEBRUARY 2004
The ex-Reds keeper equalised for Graeme Souness's Blackburn with an 89th minute shot in the penalty area. Remarkably, Charlton went down the other end and grabbed a winner with Claus Jensen beating the American!



PAUL ROBINSON FOR TOTTENHAM V WATFORD, MARCH 2007
The England man scored with an 80-yard free-kick in a 3-1 win over the Hornets at White Hart Lane.

TIM HOWARD FOR EVERTON V BOLTON, JANUARY 2012
Aided by a strong breeze, the American put the Blues a goal to the good with a punt from his own area that went over future Reds keeper Adam Bogdan, but Bolton fought back to win the game 2-1.

ASMIR BEGOVIC FOR STOKE CITY V SOUTHAMPTON, NOVEMBER 2013
Stoke's goalie beat Artur Boruc with a wind-assisted clearance just 13 seconds into the game to earn a place in the Guinness World Records book for the longest goal in football at 91.9m, but the Saints responded to earn a 1-1 draw.

ALISSON BECKER FOR LIVERPOOL AT WEST BROMWICH ALBION, MAY 2021
No matter how many times you watch it, it's still incredible. A bullet header at the near-post from Trent Alexander-Arnold's usual excellent delivery to become the first Premier League goalkeeper to score both with his head and net a winning goal.

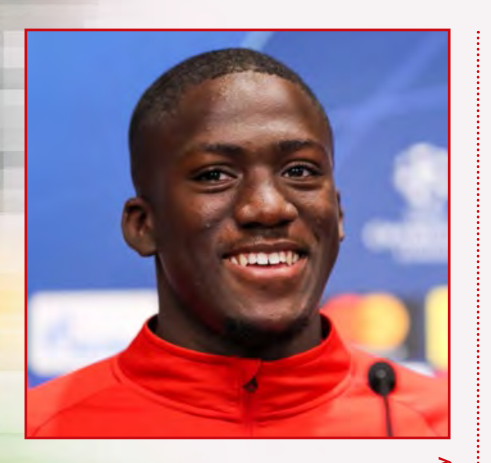



L.F.C.
standard chartered



"HE IS QUICK, HE IS VERY STRONG AND HE IS DOMINANT IN THE AIR"

So says Jürgen Klopp about his first summer signing IBRAHIMA KONATE. Here's all you need to know about Liverpool's new centre-half...



Words: William Hughes
Image (left) for illustrative purposes only

Less than a week after bringing down the curtain on the 2020/21 season, the Reds revealed the identity of their first signing of the summer.

The club confirmed that they had reached agreement with RB Leipzig for the arrival of central defender Ibrahima Konate, who will officially become a Liverpool player on 1 July. The 22-year-old Frenchman, known as 'Ibou', has agreed a long-term contract with the Reds after finalising terms and passing a medical.

He told Liverpoolfc.com: "I'm really happy to be joining such a massive club like Liverpool. It's a really exciting moment for me and my family and I am really looking forward to meeting my new team-mates, the staff and getting started on this new chapter.

"I know I will be joining one of the best teams in the world and that gives me a great feeling. I have worked very hard for many years to get to this point, but I would like to say a big thank you to everyone at RB Leipzig and all the people I worked with there – the coaches, my team-mates, the staff and especially the fans.

"Your support helped me grow up during my time there and become not only a better player, but a better man and I will always be grateful for it."

Standing six feet four inches tall, Konate is strong in the air, quick and athletic. He also possesses a good passing ability among other attributes such as impressive positional awareness and an ability to read the game exceptionally well.


AXA
YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE
LIVERPOOL FOOTBALL CLUB
EST·1892
Official Training Partner
AXA TRAINING CENTRE
Know
You Can



He will move to Anfield after four seasons in the Bundesliga with Leipzig, where he made 97 senior appearances and scored four goals. Ibou played alongside Naby Keita at the Red Bull Arena during the 2017/18 season, appearing 16 times as Ralph Hasenhuttl's team finished sixth in the Bundesliga and reached the quarter-finals of the UEFA Europa League before going out 5-3 on aggregate to eventual runners-up Marseille. Konate has also played eight times in the UEFA Champions League with the German club, although he didn't feature in either of the games against the Reds in last season's round of 16.

Prior to making the switch to Die Roten Bullen, the centre-back made his breakthrough into senior football at French club Sochaux after graduating through their academy. The Paris-born player had previously played in the youth system at current second tier club Paris FC.

He has yet to make his senior debut for France, but has represented his country in age group football, including Under-16s, 17s, 19s, 20s and 21s.

Respected German football journalist Raphael Honigstein told the Reds' website: "He is a very technical centre-back. In terms of his development as a player, I think it has been pretty good if you consider the fact that was the first big club he played for and he has gone from a player that was picked up for free to a player seen as the solution to one of Liverpool's problems next season.

"He is just an absolute top player. If it's true that centre-backs, a little bit like centre-forwards, tend to mature a little bit later – and I guess [Virgil] van Dijk is a very good example of that – then the ceiling is still very, very high for him.

"I think there's a lot more he can achieve and he can personally aspire to. So, top buy, in my view."

The Reds were looking to recruit an established centre-back after opting against replacing Dejan Lovren last summer when the Croatian joined Zenit St Petersburg.

When an injury crisis subsequently saw them lose the services of Van Dijk, Joe Gomez and Joel Matip throughout the course of the 2020/21 season, Liverpool were left short-handed in terms of experienced cover in the heart of their backline.

Turkish international Ozan Kabak was brought in on loan from Schalke in February, while former Preston North End man Ben Davies did not feature after making the switch from the Championship club late in the same window. Nat Phillips and young Rhys Williams finished the campaign as Liverpool's central defensive pairing.

Liverpool manager Jürgen Klopp is confident Konate has the qualities to immediately challenge for a first-team berth at

IBOU FACTFILE

10 stats and quotes about the Reds' new centre-back

After starting his career at local side Paris FC, he joined Sochaux in 2014. The club, based in the eastern city of Montbeliard, handed him a first-team debut against AS Monaco in the Coupe de la Ligue in January 2017, aged 17. Ibou, wearing the no31 shirt, went on to make 12 Ligue 2 appearances for Sochaux, scoring one goal in the process.

After he decided not to sign a new contract at the Auguste Bonal Stadium, Bundesliga side RB Leipzig won the race for his signature as a free agent in the summer of 2017. "We've been watching him for some time," said sporting director Ralf Rangnick. "He's a young, highly-gifted player who'll strengthen our defence. We're very happy to have been able to bring in this top talent and that Ibrahima can take the next step in his career here. He shows great qualities despite being only 18, and we're convinced he'll bring us a lot of joy."

He enjoyed a promising debut season at Leipzig under current Southampton manager Ralph Hasenhuttl before cementing his place in the side in 2018/19. Ibou made 43 appearances in all competitions during his second season, helping Die Roten Bullen reach the DFB-Pokal final and finish third in the Bundesliga. "I'm obviously delighted with Konate and [fellow French centre-back Dayot] Upamecano's development," Hasenhuttl said in 2018. "They have made huge strides this past year and gained valuable experience."

Injury problems have restricted his appearances during the past two campaigns, but Leipzig's no6 still played his part as the club, then under the management of Julian Nagelsmann, finished third and reached the semi-finals of the UEFA Champions League in 2019/20. Last season they were runners-up to Bayern Munich in the league and reached the last 16 of the Champions League before losing 4-0 on aggregate to the Reds.

He wouldn't win a popularity contest in Liverpool, but one of his footballing heroes is Spain and Real Madrid stalwart Sergio Ramos. Speaking a couple of years ago Konate said: "My idol is Sergio Ramos. I like him because he works every time and, for me, he is the best defender in the world today."

Konate scored four times during his spell with Leipzig. His first goal came in a 3-1 defeat of Romanian side Universitatea Craiova in the third qualifying round of the Europa League in August 2018. He then scored in another 3-1 win in the group stage triumph at Rosenborg in the same competition in October 2018. His first league goal came in a 4-0 away win at Fortuna Dusseldorf in January 2019. Last season he grabbed his debut Bundesliga goal on home turf, netting in Die Roten Bullen's 3-0 win over SC Freiburg.

As a youngster, Ibou played further forward and he believes those experiences have helped him in his role in the middle of defence. "I wasn't born a defender," Konate told Bild in 2019. "I was as a midfielder for a long time and even played as a striker.



Liverpool and also believes that the centre-back's vast potential means he can develop into an even better talent at Anfield.

"I'm really pleased we've been able to add a player of Ibrahima's quality to our squad and he is someone I've admired for a long time, ever since I first became aware of his potential when he was at Sochaux," explained the boss.

"After the problems we had with injuries in the centre-half position last season, there's no doubt it was clear it was an area of the team we needed to strengthen – but I first have to say that the job Nat, Rhys and Ozan did was incredible. Unbelievable really.

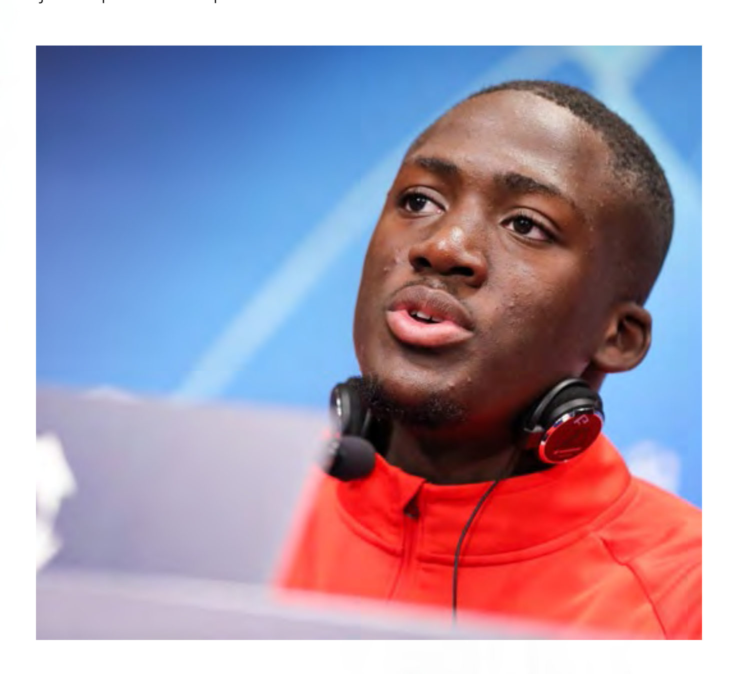
"In Ibrahima we are signing a player who will add to the quality we already have here. His physical attributes are very impressive; he is quick, he is very strong and he is dominant in the air.

"He comes to us after playing more than 90 times for Leipzig in the Bundesliga and European football. I'm sure that number would have been more but for some injuries, but even so that means he already has experience of what it takes to compete in two outstandingly difficult competitions.

"He also played for a team in the Champions League in high-pressure matches, who have a similar football vision to ourselves.

"I am confident we are signing a player who can play for us right away, but he is a boy of 22 years of age who has room to improve because of his massive potential. I know that's something he is eager to work on with us to become an even better player.

"For me, that's really exciting because I have seen how good he is already and I'm looking forward to working with him when he joins up with us in pre-season."



And you can see that I got something out of that. It means I can move forward a bit too. I've developed well and I enjoy the style of play you encounter in the Bundesliga every week: it's attack-minded with lots of pace and passion."

Guido Schafer, a former team-mate of Jurgen Klopp's at Mainz, now working as a journalist covering RB Leipzig, told the Under The Radar podcast: "He is tall, fast, [has a] good technique and he is a little bit of Virgil van Dijk. He is the chief, in a positive way, of the French connection in the Leipzig squad, on and off the field. He learned German as fast as no other guy. He has very high-class potential. He is a great athlete, he has good speed and there are no silly tackles – he is an intelligent player. And in the 100 metres, Konate is the fastest player in RB Leipzig. It is a potentially world-class package. He is really good in passing and that is from Julian Nagelsmann – he needs players who can pass. Konate is the right player for Liverpool."

Of Malian descent, Konate has represented France at age group level since making his debut for Les Bleus' Under-16s in 2014/15. Last month he captained the French side that went out of the U21s European Championship at the quarter-final stage. His side were beaten 2-1 by the Netherlands at the Bozsik Stadion in Budapest. His long-standing centre-back partner for club and country Dayot Upamecano put France ahead before AZ Alkmaar striker Myron Boadu equalised six minutes into the second half. The forward then struck again in the third minute of added time to send the Dutch into a semi-final with Germany. In 2019, Konate was part of the French squad that reached the semis of the same competition in Italy and San Marino before they went out to eventual winners Spain.

Konate leaves RB Leipzig after a total of 97 competitive games, four goals and one assist. Leipzig's commercial sports director Florian Scholz said: "We would like to thank Ibrahima Konate for the very successful time together. Ibou came to RB Leipzig in 2017 as a free transfer and he has developed into a top defender with the corresponding market value, from which we can now benefit to the maximum. In addition to his sporting value, Ibou has always been a very pleasant, friendly and decent player, colleague and friend for many employees." The player himself said of his time with the Saxony club: "I had a fantastic time at RB Leipzig. It was a very big step for me to move from France to Germany in 2017. Right from the start, the association gave me the trust that was so important and gave me the time I needed to find my way around and develop. "Even during my injuries, I always felt the full support. I am very grateful for these four special years, which were a very formative phase both for me as a young player and for the young club. Now I am looking forward to my new chapter at Liverpool FC and of course I hope that we will see each other again on the international stage."





The journey is greater together

WITH YOU ALL THE WAY





Official Travel Companion of Liverpool Football Club

HEADS HELD

Our Under-18s fell just short of FA Youth Cup glory at Villa Park but enjoyed a progressive season with plenty of positives along the way

Liverpool Under-18s can look back with pride on an excellent FA Youth Cup run that saw them just miss out at the final hurdle.

After coming from behind to beat Ipswich Town 2-1 in the semi-final at Portman Road, the young Reds faced a tough assignment in the final – a one-off clash against Aston Villa in front of almost 4,500 home fans at Villa Park.

The hosts, who used nine of the 16 players that had featured against Jürgen Klopp's first-team in this season's FA Cup third-round clash at Villa Park, took advantage of a strong start to race into a two-goal lead.

But having gathered their composure, Marc Bridge-Wilkinson's side grew into the game, pulled a goal back through a deflected strike from substitute Melkamu Frauendorf and put Villa under some late pressure only to see the Villans hold on to lift the trophy.

"We're really proud of them," Bridge-Wilkinson said after the final whistle. "We didn't start the game very well, that was pretty obvious to see. But we made a game of it, we put them on the back-foot in the second half and we managed to create opportunities in and around their box.

"Of course, it wasn't easy because Aston Villa are a really good side and they've got some really good players. We regrouped, we made sure we stuck together and we found a way of changing the game in our favour in the second half.

"We were always going to concede chances to them and they had lots of chances, but we managed to affect their goal as well. Even at the end, we were still trying and fighting to see if we could get that goal."

Villa looked lively from the first whistle and went ahead after seven minutes. Man of the match Arjan Raikhy got to the by-line and pulled the ball back to the edge of the area for fellow midfielder Ben Chrisene to take a touch before drilling a fierce left-footed shot past Reds keeper Harvey Davies.

Five minutes later, striker Brad Young fell in the box under a challenge from Liverpool centre-back Billy Koumetio. Referee John Brooks pointed to the spot and Young converted it himself, taking a Jorginho-style run-up and jump before stroking his effort beyond Davies.



HIGH

Special report: William Hughes





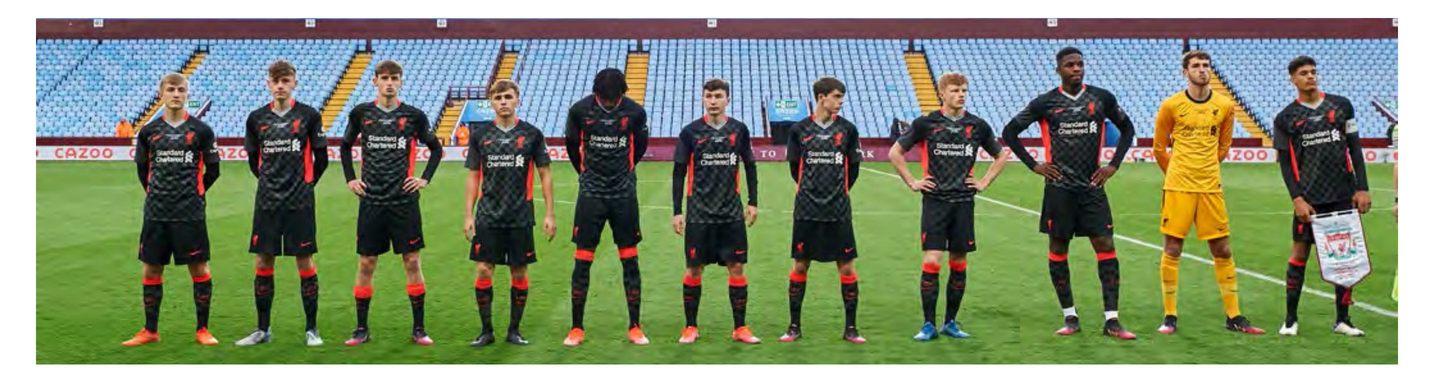
For a spell, the Reds looked like they might be blown away with the dynamic Young and Chrisene both striking the woodwork from close range, but Liverpool gradually established a foothold in the game and started to create chances of their own.

Tricky winger Mateusz Musialowski fired over after being played in by midfielder James Balagizi, who looked to capitalise on Villa being over-elaborate in playing out from the back. Musialowski also saw another effort go over the bar before a clever attempt sailed just off target as he looked to lob keeper Filip Marschall, who then saved well from Reds midfielder Tyler Morton on the stroke of half-time.

Bridge-Wilkinson, who was joined on the sidelines by ex-Reds and England men Steve McManaman and Rob Jones, changed things around at the interval with winger Frauendorf replacing midfielder Dominic Corness.

The substitute had an immediate impact, picking out striker Max Woltman, whose first time shot drifted wide.

>>



Villa, cheered on by 4,406 fans located in the Holte End, the upper North Stand and upper Trinity Road Stand, always looked a threat through pacy forward trio of Young, Louie Barry – Villa's scorer in that January FA Cup tie – and Carney Chukwuemeka.

Liverpool goalkeeper Davies was a busy man and made several good saves. But the Reds were starting to look a bigger attacking threat and Morton was just off target with a free-kick from 25-yards.

With 17 minutes remaining, another Morton set piece gave the Reds a way back into the contest. His deep corner picked out Frauendorf who hooked a volley goalwards and it defeated Marschall via a deflection off Villa left-back Seb Revan.

While the home side continued to look dangerous, especially on the counter-attack, Liverpool pressed to find an equaliser. With five minutes left, a Morton cross was half-cleared to Musialowski, but his volley was well blocked by Dutch centre-back Sil Swinkels.

Deep into stoppage time, the Reds carved out one last opportunity with Morton standing a cross up to the back post. It was met by the head of skipper Jarell Quansah, but he couldn't generate enough power to trouble Marschall.

Seconds later, the final whistle shrilled and the young Liverpool lads slumped to the floor in dejection. It had finished Aston Villa 2 Liverpool 1 and the Reds' dream of becoming the club's fifth FA Youth Cup winning side were over.

As the PA system blasted out 'Sweet Caroline' and 'Hi Ho Aston Villa', Bridge-Wilkinson and his squad sportingly stayed on the touchline to watch Villa's celebrations and the presentation of the trophy to skipper Aaron Ramsey.







"We are disappointed, of course. I think the changing room and the group of players and staff are obviously a little bit flat at the minute which is to be expected," said Bridge-Wilkinson.

"I think the pleasing thing was that after such a difficult start, we managed to give them a game. In the second half we came out and we managed to get a little bit more action in their box and even at the end we had a couple of chances where we maybe could've got something. So I guess we have to take the positives from that.

"First half it wasn't to be, but I think we dusted ourselves down and came out second-half and we had a right good go. But fair play to the Villa. I think they were the better team on the evening and probably deserved to win."

Despite the obvious disappointment, Liverpool's talented teens can be proud of a run which saw them overcome Sutton United, Manchester United, Leicester City, Arsenal and Ipswich Town on their way to the final.

"We've played against a variety of different teams and styles," said skipper Quansah. "Sutton in the first game just looked to block up and tried not to give us any room, so playing against that was quite different to playing against United in the next round. United threw everything forward and really attacked us. Overall, it's been good to get back to tournament football because it's very good for our experience."

The Reds also finished third in the Premier League Under 18s North group, scoring 75 goals across their 24 games and boasting the second best defensive record behind champions Manchester City.

"It's been a good, positive season," said Bridge-Wilkinson. "I think if we look back on the journey, I'd probably say that we've adapted to it well.

"Every opposition that we've played has been different. We've had some really tough games and we've played really well in certain moments of certain games in terms of with the ball, and we've also played really well without the ball.

"Each team in this run has brought a different challenge. I think what we've done over the course of these games is that we've shown in different ways how we can win the game of football, albeit that we came up short in the final.

"With the ball, without the ball, counter-attacking, pressing from the front, having to defend a little bit deeper. We were down to 10 men against Man United and we ended up defending our box for 25 minutes or so and the boys did it phenomenally well, so they have shown the ability to adapt and play differently."

Bridge-Wilkinson selected only 14 different players to start the six FA Youth Cup games with six others making substitute appearances and was quick to pay tribute to the contribution of the whole squad.

"We've got four players who were injured [Harvey Blair, Oakley Cannonier, Tom Hill and Layton Stewart] and they would have made a huge difference if they had been able to be involved in the squad.

"Likewise the boys that have been on the bench have all played a part in this run, whether it's Lee Jonas or Sean Wilson, Luke Chambers coming on at Man United when we were down to 10 men, or whether it's





I THINK THE PLEASING THING WAS THAT AFTER SUCH A DIFFICULT START, WE MANAGED TO GIVE THEM A GAME. IN THE SECOND HALF WE CAME OUT AND WE MANAGED TO GET A LITTLE BIT MORE ACTION IN THEIR BOX



GAMES AND GOALS

PL U18S NORTH

Date	Opponent	Score	Scorers
SEPT			
19	STOKE	5-0	Stewart 3, Corness 2
26	MAN CITY	1-3	Mabaya
OCT			
3	Blackburn	3-0	Stewart 3
17	SUNDERLAND	3-2	Stewart 2, Ennis
24	Everton	4-0	Fruendorf, Woltman, Jonas, Welch (OG)
31	NEWCASTLE	4-1	Morton 2, Stewart, Woltman
NOV			
7	Wolves	1-2	Stewart
21	LEEDS UNITED	5-0	Stewart, Frauendorf, Musialowski, Mabaya, Cannonier
DEC			
1	BURNLEY	4-1	Koumetio, Musialowski, Cannonier, Ennis
5	Man United	3-4	Stewart 2, Morton
12	Middlesbrough	4-1	Quansah, Norris, Cannonier, Blair
19	Derby County	3-1	Norris, Blair, Mabaya
JAN			
30	Man City	2-4	Stewart 2
FEB			
9	Stoke City	2-1	McConnell, Cannonier
16	BLACKBURN	0-1	
20	Sunderland	6-0	Quansah, Mabaya, Corness, Musialowski, Woltman, McConnell
27	EVERTON	2-1	Musialowski, Frauendorf
MAR			
6	Man United	0-1	
13	Newcastle	3-0	Corness, Musialowski, Woltman
APR			
6	WOLVES	4-1	Gordon 2, Woltman 2
16	Leeds United	6-1	Gordon 2, Woltman 2, Musialowski, Moore (OG)
20	Burnley	1-1	Chambers
24	MIDDLESBRO	6-0	Quansah, Gordon, Musialowski 2, Woltman 2
MAY			
4	DERBY COUNTY	3-0	Gordon, Frauendorf 2





IT MAY SOUND DAFT, BUT ON THE BUS TO THE GAMES OR IN THE TRAINING SESSIONS IN THE WEEKS AND THE MONTHS LEADING UP TO IT, BEING IN AND AROUND THE WARM-UPS AND THE HALF-TIMES AND AFTER THE GAMES – EVERY SINGLE MEMBER OF THE STAFF AND EVERY SINGLE MEMBER OF THE PLAYING GROUP PLAYS A HUGE PART IN THE IDENTITY OF THIS GROUP AND THIS TEAM

Mel [Frauendorf] coming on in the semi-final and scoring the winner and getting us back into the final, everybody's played their part and not just in the games.

"It may sound daft, but on the bus to the games or in the training sessions in the weeks and the months leading up to it, being in and around the warm-ups and the half-times and after the games – every single member of the staff and every single member of the playing group plays a huge part in the identity of this group and this team. I think that's such a big thing, that everybody buys into what we're doing, everybody wants to achieve and succeed in it and that is a big part of the reason why we've had a decent season."



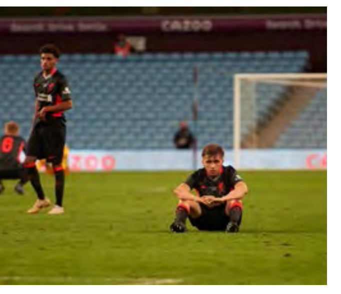


He also singled out the way boys such as Frauendorf and Musialowski have settled quickly after moving countries [Germany and Poland respectively] in this most testing of seasons to be part of the academy set-up at Kirkby.

"I think they deserve an awful a lot of credit," he explained. "To come into a new country, a new club and obviously a new culture and a new way of training and playing football is difficult at the best of times. But to come in during these Covid times and to get on with the situation and deal with it in the way that they have, I think they deserve so much credit.

"It's been tough for us all in our own lives and family lives as well, but for those boys, particularly so. I think we managed to get them home once for Christmas which was really important, but besides that they've been here since mid-July so by the time that they got to go home at the beginning of June, it was 11 months really bar a 10-day window.

"So these are things that we can be proud of, the way that these boys have adapted, the way that they've managed to deal with the events that





have unfolded over the course of the season on and off the pitch. And that's not just the foreign boys but the local boys too because they've had it tough as well. So we've got to make sure that we give them an awful lot of credit."

Now, after a few weeks' rest, the focus will quickly move to next season and continuing their progression.

"We've had lots of boys that have achieved good things in games and we've had boys that have obviously moved forwards into training groups and games they've played with the Under-23s and being involved in first-team training," added Bridge-Wilkinson.

"But of course it's football and football changes day-to-day. It's great to say this has happened this season – and the boys have shown an awful lot of potential – but ultimately we've got to keep going, we've got to keep these boys hungry and help them learn and adapt to the game, even more so moving forwards."

FA YOUTH CUP FINAL
Monday 24 May at Villa Park

Aston Villa 2 (Chrisene 7, Young (pen) 12)
Liverpool 1 (Revan (og) 73)

Referee: John Brooks. **Attendance:** 4,406

VILLA: Marschall; Kesler-Hayden, Bogarde, Swinkels, Revan; Lindley (Sylla 79), Chrisene (Ramsey 61), Raikhy; Young, Chukwuemeka, Barry. **Subs not used:** Zych, Appiah, Sewell, O'Reilly, Reddin. **Booked:** Bogarde, Young.

LIVERPOOL: Davies; Bradley, Koumetio, Quansah, Norris; Morton, Stephenson, Corness (Frauendorf 46); Balagizi, Woltman, Musialowski. **Subs not used:** Mrozek, Jonas, Wilson, Chambers, Mabaya, Bajcetic. **Booked:** Stephenson.



PREMIER LEAGUE UNDER-18S NORTH TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Man City	24	19	4	1	76	19	57	61
Man Utd	24	20	0	4	79	27	52	60
Liverpool	**24**	**17**	**1**	**6**	**75**	**26**	**49**	**52**
Middlesbro	24	12	3	9	48	48	0	39
Everton	24	11	2	11	42	42	0	35
Blackburn	24	10	3	11	37	43	-6	33
Derby C	24	10	3	11	43	54	-11	33
Wolves	24	10	3	11	38	50	-12	33
Burnley	24	8	4	12	34	38	-4	28
Newcastle	24	7	3	14	50	57	-7	24
Stoke C	24	6	5	13	28	61	-33	23
Leeds Utd	24	4	3	17	30	73	-43	15

FA YOUTH CUP

		Round	Score	Scorers
MARCH				
16	SUTTON UTD	R3	6-0	Musialowski 2, Morton, Ennis 3
APRIL				
3	Man United	R4	1-0	Morton
16	Leicester City	R5	5-1	Balagizi 3, Woltman 2
30	ARSENAL	R6	3-1	Musialowski, Norris, Woltman
MAY				
12	Ipswich Town	SF	2-1	Musialowski, Frauendorf
24	Aston Villa	F	1-2	Revan (OG)

GAMES AND GOALS (all competitions)

GAMES: 29, Max Woltman; 28, Jarell Quansah; 27, Dominic Corness; 25, Mateusz Musialowski; 23, Melkamu Frauendorf; 22, James Balagizi, Sean Wilson; 21, James Norris; 20, Luca Stephenson; 18, Isaac Mabaya; 17, Lee Jonas; 13, Billy Koumetio; 12, Luke Chambers; 11, James McConnell, Tyler Morton; 10, Jakub Ojrzynski, Layton Stewart; 9, Ethan Ennis, Fabian Mrozek; 8, Oakley Cannonier, Harvey Davies, Kaide Gordon; 6, Terence Miles; 5, Conor Bradley; 4, Stefan Bajcetic, Harvey Blair; 3, Tommy Pilling, Marcelo Pitaluga; 2, Charlie Hayes-Green; 1, Nathan Giblin, Callum Scanlon.



GOALS: 15, Layton Stewart; 13, Max Woltman; 12, Mateusz Musialowski; 7, Melkamu Frauendorf; 6, Kaide Gordon; 5, Ethan Ennis, Tyler Morton; 4, Dominic Corness, Isaac Mabaya, Oaklet Cannonier; 3, James Balagizi, James Norris, Jarell Quansah; 2, Harvey Balir, James McConnell; 1, Luke Chambers, Lee Jonas, Billy Koumetio.



BACK TO THE FUTURE

Reds recruit title-winning boss Matt Beard and he's targeting promotion back to the Women's Super League...

Matt Beard is back as manager of Liverpool FC Women, six years after leaving the club to move to America.

The 43-year-old originally joined LFC Women in 2012 and built a squad which won back-to-back Women's Super League titles in 2013 and 2014. He also led the Reds women into their first Champions League campaigns.

After returning from his spell with Boston Breakers, Beard enjoyed two years with West Ham United Women, including a run to the Women's FA Cup final in 2019, before spending the last few months with Bristol City Women.

"I'm delighted to be back at Liverpool Women," he said. "This is the perfect project and the perfect club. When the opportunity arose it was something I wanted to do. When you're here and then you're away from the football club you realise how special and unique it is."

Beard will be assisted by former interim-manager Amber Whiteley, and despite his past success with the Reds he only wants to look forward.

"It's about what I do this time and hopefully getting the club back into the Super League. One thing I can promise the football club and the fans is that I'll work as hard as I can to get us back there.

"We have a good core group here and the infrastructure is there. It's about recruiting the right players to improve the team and making sure we have one common goal as a group to achieve what we want to achieve."

Six players have moved on with club captain Sophie Bradley-Auckland leading the departures due to added family and business commitments.



"I've got nothing but good things to say," she said. "Liverpool was the club that owed me nothing and gave me everything. I've got everything to thank them for. I just loved it and I think that showed in how I played on the pitch."

Also leaving the Reds are defender Becky Jane, midfielders Amy Rodgers and Kirsty Linnett, winger Jess Clarke and forward Amalie Thestrup.

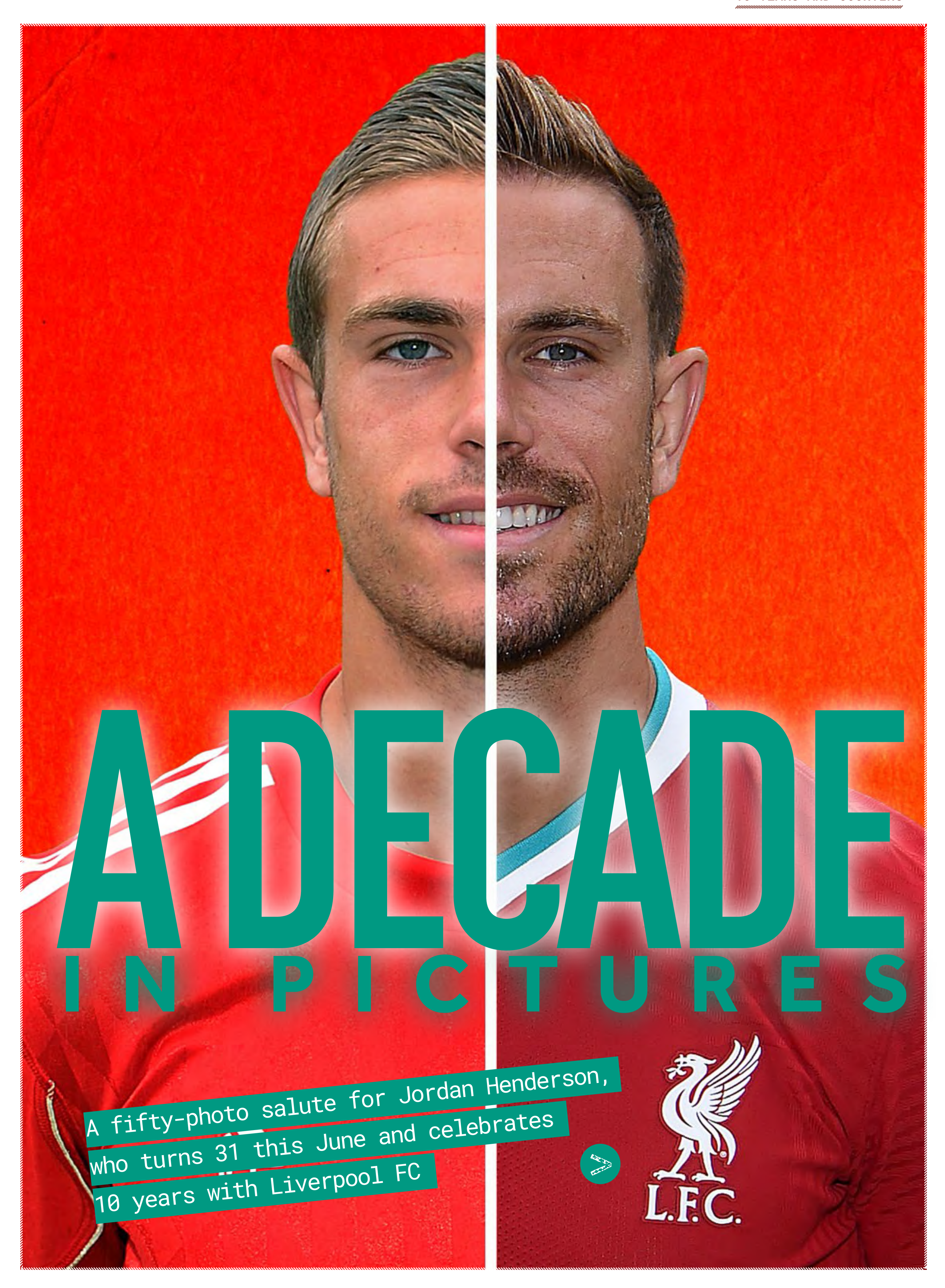
Goalkeeping coach Jen Herst has also left to take up a position with the Football Association of Wales.

Meanwhile, Scouse midfielder Missy Bo Kearns has been named as the Reds' Standard Chartered Player of the Season for 2020/21.

The 20-year-old enjoyed a breakthrough campaign at senior level, making 19 appearances and scoring twice. She was also named Player of the Season by the Liverpool FC Women's Supporters' Club.

A DECADE IN PICTURES

A fifty-photo salute for Jordan Henderson, who turns 31 this June and celebrates 10 years with Liverpool FC

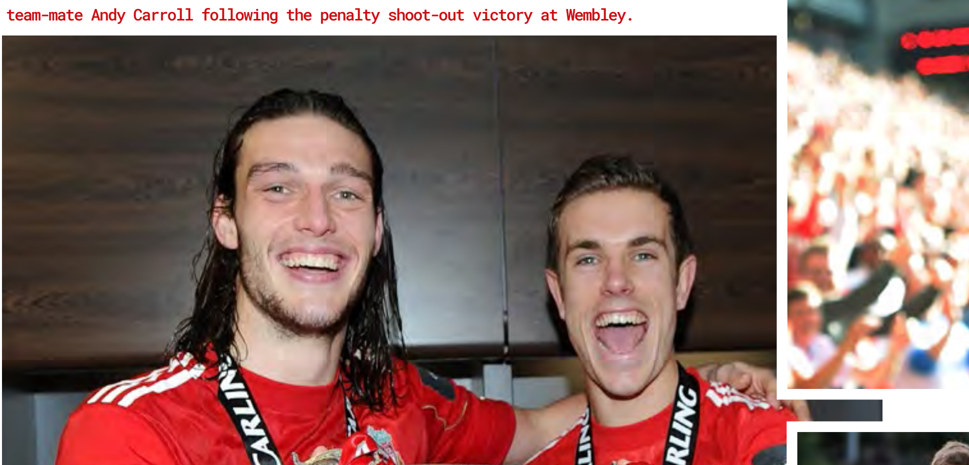


In action at Anfield on his Premier League debut for Liverpool against former club Sunderland in August 2011. The game ended in a 1-1 draw.

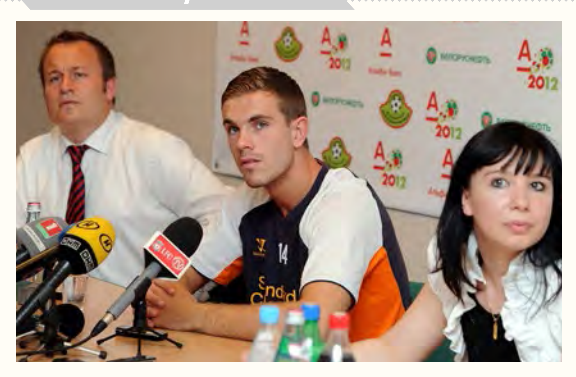
Taking on some tips from the boss, Sir Kenny Dalglish, during an early training session with the Reds at Melwood.

Get in there! Celebrating his first Liverpool goal, the opener in the 3-1 home win over Bolton Wanderers in the Premier League in August 2011.

Silverware in his first season. Toasting Carling Cup success against Cardiff City with team-mate Andy Carroll following the penalty shoot-out victory at Wembley.



Learning from the best as he battles with Steven Gerrard in training.



Taking on pre-match press-conference duties before Brendan Rodgers' first official match in charge, a Europa League tie away to FC Gomel in Belarus.



Celebrating his winning goal in another European match, the 1-0 victory at Udinese in the Stadio Friuli during the Europa League group stages in December 2012.



Saluting a goal in a 2-2 draw at Arsenal in a Premier League clash at the Emirates in January 2013.

Six of the best! Rounding off the season with a couple of goals in the 6-0 win at Newcastle United – always special for a former Sunderland man!



Finding the back of the net again in a 5-0 rout of Norwich City at Anfield in January 2013.



Wheeling away in delight after scoring in Steven Gerrard's testimonial fixture against Olympiacos at Anfield in August 2013.

Competing with former team-mate Charlie Adam in an aerial duel during Liverpool's 5-3 win at Stoke City in January 2014.

A chat with Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers during training.

A victory slide after putting his name on the scoresheet during the 5-0 Premier League win at Tottenham Hotspur in December 2013.



Teaming up with Jon Flanagan to take on Glen Johnson and Martin Kelly in a game of foot-tennis doubles at Melwood.

2014/15 Season



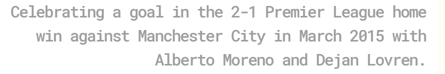
Joining an eight-man defensive wall to try and keep out a Papiss Cisse free-kick versus Newcastle United at St James' Park in November 2014.



A first Champions League goal during the 2-2 draw with Bulgarian side Ludogorets in November 2014.



Taking applause from the travelling Kop after netting the third in a 3-1 win against Leicester City at the King Power Stadium in December 2014.



Celebrating a goal in the 2-1 Premier League home win against Manchester City in March 2015 with Alberto Moreno and Dejan Lovren.



Putting in the hard gym-work at Melwood.



Trying on the armband after being named Liverpool FC captain in succession to Steven Gerrard.

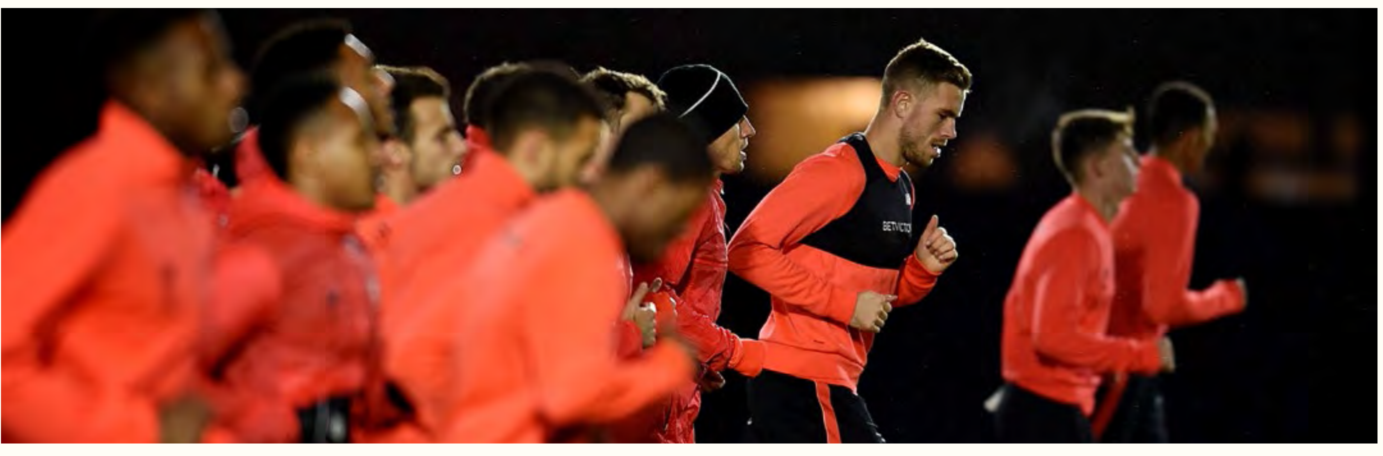


Taking selfies with supporters in Adelaide during the Reds' pre-season tour in July 2015.

Sharing a laugh with new boss Jürgen Klopp during training before the Europa League final date with Sevilla in Basel.

Charging forward during Liverpool's 6-0 win at Aston Villa in February 2016.

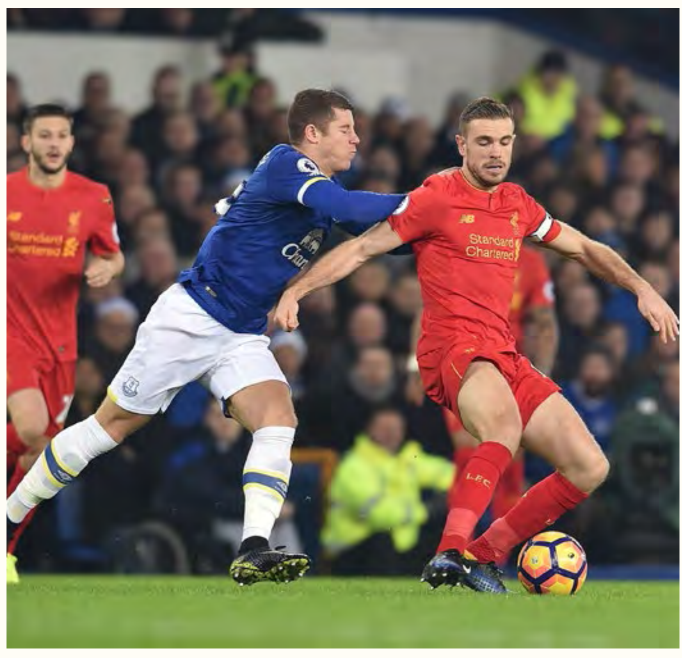
Previewing the Reds' first European final for nine years ahead of the clash in Switzerland.



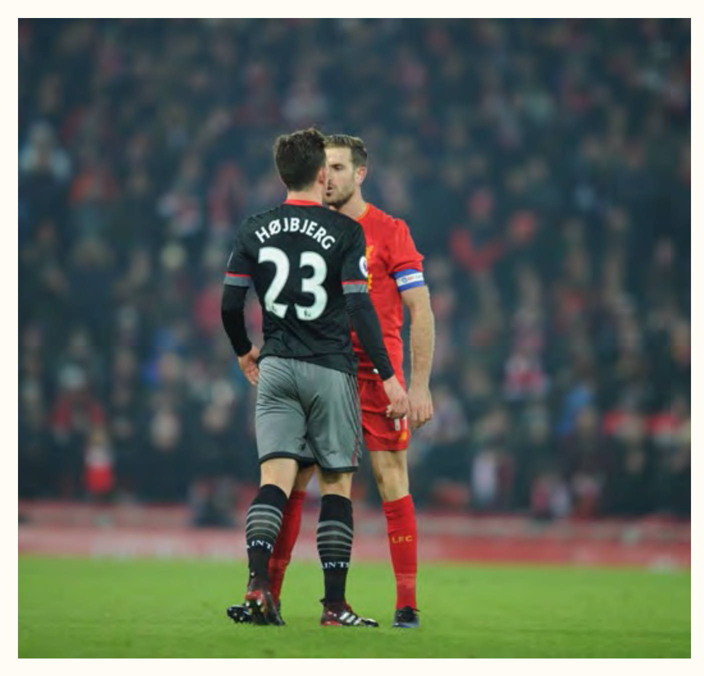
Grafting at Melwood during a winter training session.



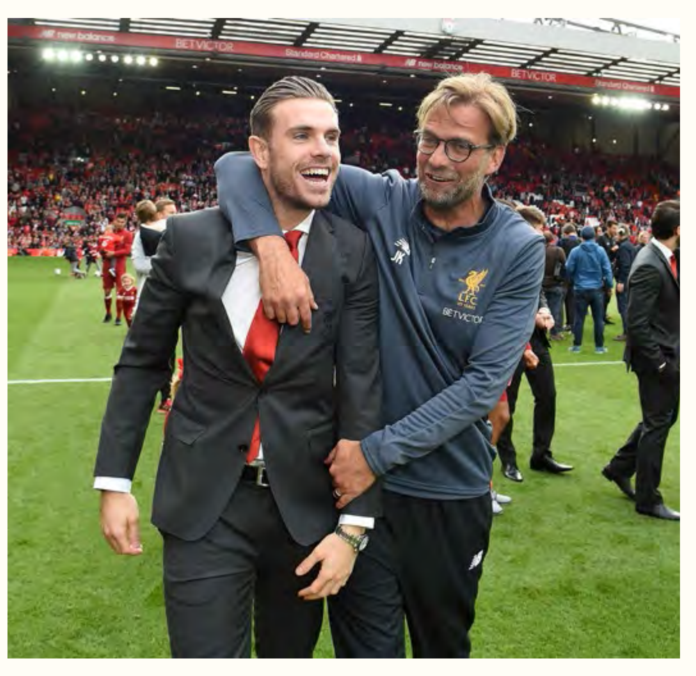
Celebrating a long-range screamer at Stamford Bridge in the Reds' 2-1 win over Chelsea in September 2016.



Holding off Everton midfielder Ross Barkley in the 1-0 Merseyside derby win at Goodison Park in December 2016.



Squaring up to Southampton's Pierre-Emile Højbjerg in the EFL Cup semi-final at Anfield in January 2017.



Receiving a hug from the boss after the Reds defeat Middlesbrough 3-0 at Anfield in May 2017 to clinch Champions League qualification.



Slotting home the Reds' third in the 3-2 Premier League win at Leicester City in September 2017.



Joining fellow team-mates to spread some festive cheer at Alder Hey Children's Hospital.



Celebrating reaching the Champions League final after knocking out AS Roma in the semi.

Warming up on the eve of the Champions League final against Real Madrid in Kiev in May 2018.

Despairing at losing 3-1 to Real Madrid.

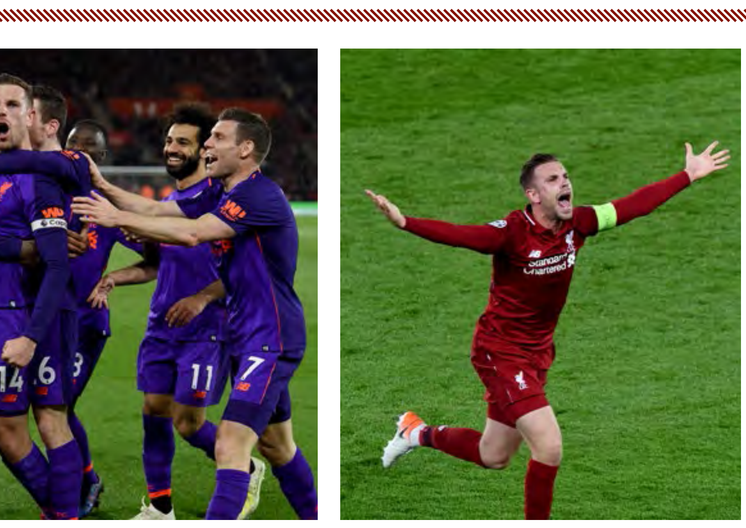
2018/19 Season



Toughing it out in midfield with Napoli's Allan during a vital 1-0 Champions League group stage victory at Anfield in December 2018.



Celebrating a goal as the Reds win 2-1 at Southampton in April 2019 to stay in pursuit of Manchester City at the top of the Premier League table.



Enjoying hearing the final whistle after the incredible 4-0 win over Barcelona at Anfield in the semi-final of the Champions League in May 2019.



Joining the elite band of Liverpool captains to have lifted the European Cup after victory over Tottenham Hotspur in Madrid in June 2019.



Painting the town red with his team-mates as the city came out to toast Liverpool's sixth European Cup/Champions League triumph in June 2019.



Kissing his medal after the UEFA Super Cup final success against Chelsea in Istanbul in August 2019 with vice-captain James Milner.

Celebrating a crucial equaliser as the Reds come from behind to beat Spurs 2-1 in a Premier League fixture at Anfield in October 2019.

Getting his hands on the Premier League trophy after a 30-year wait to be Champions finally ends for Liverpool Football Club.

Lifting the FIFA Club World Cup following Liverpool's first triumph in the tournament in December 2019 in Qatar.

Receiving the Football Writers' Association's Footballer of the Year award for 2019/20 in recognition for a superb season on and off the pitch.



Steering home the fourth in the awesome 7-0 win at Crystal Palace that set a new club-record Premier League away win in December 2020.





Firing in a shot at goal during the first – and hopefully last – Merseyside derby to be played at Anfield without supporters.

Taking a knee before kick-off of a Premier League clash after using his Matchday Programme notes to call racist abuse on social media as "written assaults" and "hate crimes."

Paying tribute at Anfield to the 96 who lost their lives at Hillsborough on the 32nd anniversary of the disaster.



Lifting the Premier League trophy on a mural on Old Barn Road, Anfield, that pays homage to Jordan and LFC's previous title-winning captain, Alan Hansen.


"AND
HERE'S
TO YOU
JORDAN
HENDERSON"
LFC
Standard
Chartered
14



YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE
LIVERPOOL
FOOTBALL CLUB
EST·1892
Official
Membership
TIME TO
CONTINUE
THIS JOURNEY.
Never standing still. As we prepare for next season, our focus is all about looking forward with fresh vision and new goals. We want our LFC Official Members to be part of this journey.
You'll be entitled to a host of exclusive benefits, from discount in LFC Retail Stores and online, to opportunities to win experiences that will bring you even closer to your Club.
Join us now:
liverpoolfc.com/Membership
WALK ON

WE'LL BE COMING DOWN THE ROAD

Scotland skipper ANDY ROBERTSON on his pride in leading his nation at their first major tournament finals in 23 years...

Andy Robertson admits it has been a long road to success for Scotland.

But the Liverpool left-back believes all the tough times will have been worth it when he leads his side out in their EURO 2020 opener against the Czech Republic on 14 June.

Robertson will be beaming with pride when he walks out at Hampden Park and the goosebumps will no doubt be there when around 12,000 members of the Tartan Army belt out Flower of Scotland before kick-off.

The 27-year-old says it has been far from plain sailing since he made his international bow against Poland in March 2014 and so he will cherish every moment of the tournament, which will also see the Scots coming down the road to play England at Wembley and complete their group stage campaign against Croatia in Glasgow.

"With all my success in the period of time since I came to Liverpool, and even before that, playing for Scotland was a really tough moment," he says. "We couldn't really win games and we were going through a kind of transition period, but then since Steve Clarke's come in [in May 2019], it's been incredible.

"We took a wee bit of time to adapt under him, but since we've done that we've got back to being a team that's tough to beat and that's what a good Scotland team always were.

"I believe we're not quite there yet, but we're definitely tough to beat and we've proven that over the last seven, eight or nine games. To get to a major tournament finals with your country and with myself being captain is a massive honour and we couldn't wait for the summer.

"It is huge for our country and it is huge for all the lads because the one thing we share is that none of us have ever played at a major finals. So we are looking forward to that challenge. It's something that was incredible to qualify for and it gave the country a really big lift in a tough time. Hopefully the summer can do that as well."

Managed by former Liverpool assistant manager Clarke, Scotland qualified for the tournament as winners of the play-off Pathway C. They needed penalties to overcome both Israel in the semi-final at Hampden Park and then Serbia in the final in Belgrade. Robbo's team-mates converted five out of five in each shoot-out, but the skipper admits that he could barely watch.

"They were terrible [experiences], to be fair. I couldn't really watch any of them to be honest, but you know it was probably typical Scotland. We were 1-0 up against Serbia in the 89th minute and it






EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS
EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS
sA
06.09.2019

was probably the best 89 minutes we've played away from home in Scotland jerseys in a long, long time. And then we got the 'here we go again' moment [when striker Luka Jovic equalised] and I think the whole country felt the same and thought it's going to be another hard luck story. But luckily we managed to get into the lads quite early, the manager and myself spoke at the end of the 90 minutes and said, 'Look, forget about it now, we are half-an-hour closer.

"In extra-time I think Marshy [Derby County goalkeeper David Marshall] made a good save, but apart from that, there was nothing and then penalties.

"I always back Marshy to make a save and then it was just up to the lads to score. I watched every one of their penalties, but I don't think I watched any of ours! But luckily the lads were fantastic at them with five out of five and then, you know, the big man did what he did and he is a national hero now."

I always back Marshy to make a save and then it was just up to the lads to score. I watched every one of their penalties, but I don't think I watched any of ours!

The soundtrack to Scotland's summer is likely to be provided by a somewhat unlikely track – the 1977 hit from Spanish female vocal duo Baccara, *Yes Sir, I Can Boogie*. It struck a chord with the Scottish public after Aberdeen defender Andrew Considine led the team in singing it following the win in Belgrade and clips went viral on social media.

"I expect we'll hear it morning, noon and night in Scotland during the Euros and so I'm sure we'll become well accustomed to all the words in it," says Robertson. "It's a crazy song and I can't believe it's associated with us now, but there you go! Thank you to Andrew Considine for that, I suppose!"

One slight frustration among Scotland supporters is that two of their best players are natural left-backs with Arsenal's Kieran Tierney often operating as a left-sided centre-back for his national team.

"Kieran and I get on really well," says Robbo, who along with Gini Wijnaldum played in all 38 of Liverpool's Premier League games this season. "The Scotland team is a bit similar to Liverpool where it's a really good bunch of lads. We've got a really good squad and the players get on really, really well and that's no different between me and KT. Some people obviously try to create competition and things like that between us, but we're just focused on trying to do the best we can for Scotland.

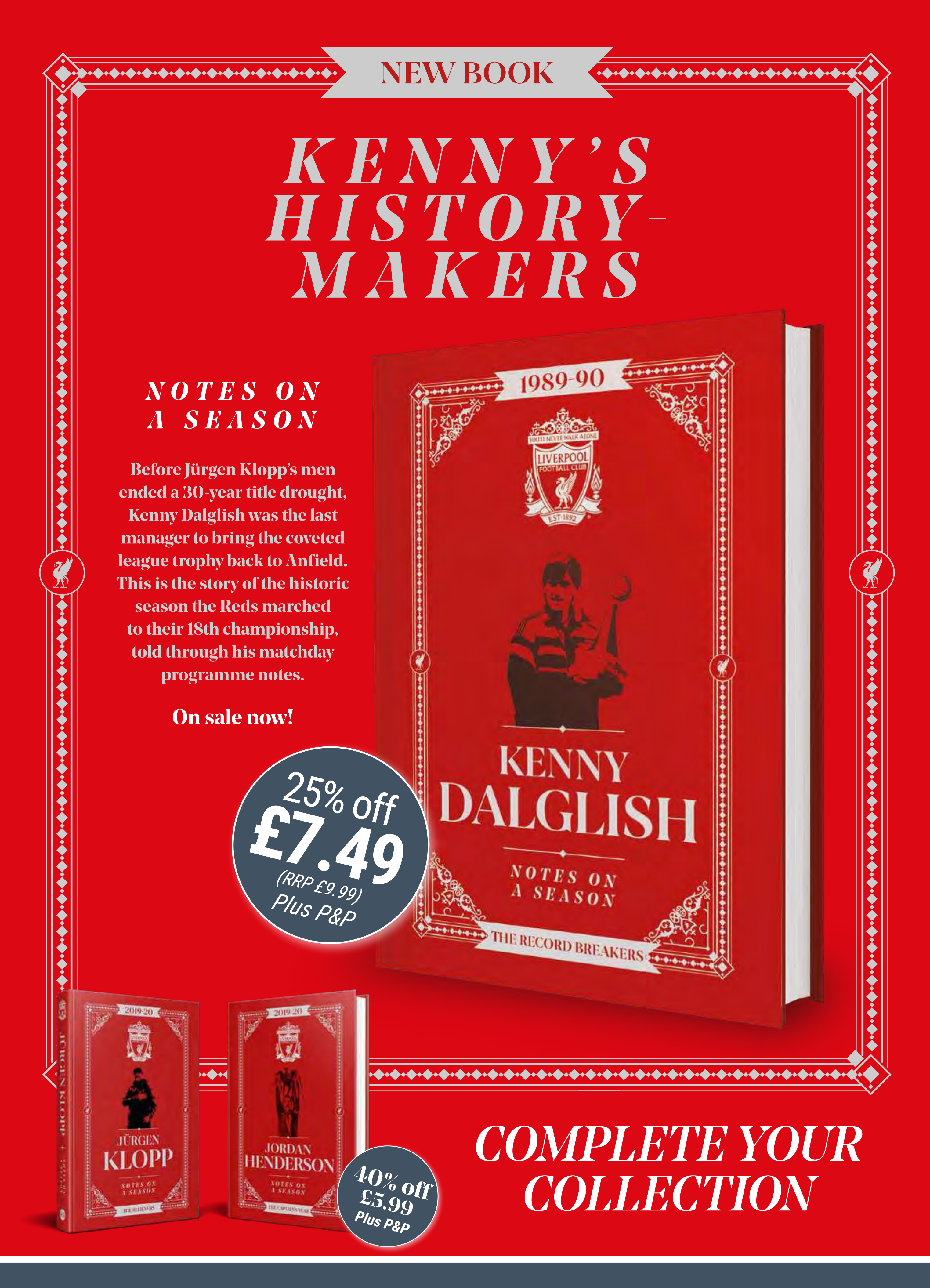
"If we are playing together on the same side, it's a real privilege



and we try and link up and play as well as we can together and I think we've started to do that.

"The way we play for Scotland is a different formation, of course. I play left wing-back so we play a different way and we all have to adapt. KT has played a number of positions for Arsenal and for Scotland and he's very good at that as he's very versatile and that's a credit to him.




NEW BOOK
KENNY'S HISTORY-MAKERS
NOTES ON A SEASON
Before Jürgen Klopp's men ended a 30-year title drought, Kenny Dalglish was the last manager to bring the coveted league trophy back to Anfield. This is the story of the historic season the Reds marched to their 18th championship, told through his matchday programme notes.
On sale now!
25% off
£7.49
(RRP £9.99)
Plus P&P
1989-90
KENNY DALGLISH
NOTES ON A SEASON
THE RECORD BREAKERS
JÜRGEN KLOPP
JORDAN HENDERSON
40% off
£5.99
Plus P&P
COMPLETE YOUR COLLECTION
Order online at reachsportshop.com





"Whatever position he gets asked to play, he always does it to 100%. I think a lot of us are like that and he is no different because we just want to be as successful as we can for Scotland. That's everyone's main aim and that's what we strive towards.

"When he goes into any position then he always gives it his best and that's why you always get good performances out of him and, in a Scotland top, long may that continue because if all of us play well then that's the best chance we've got towards being successful."

A year after helping Liverpool end a wait that dated back to the 1990s, Robertson is delighted to be helping his country end another one as they compete in their first major tournament finals since 1998.

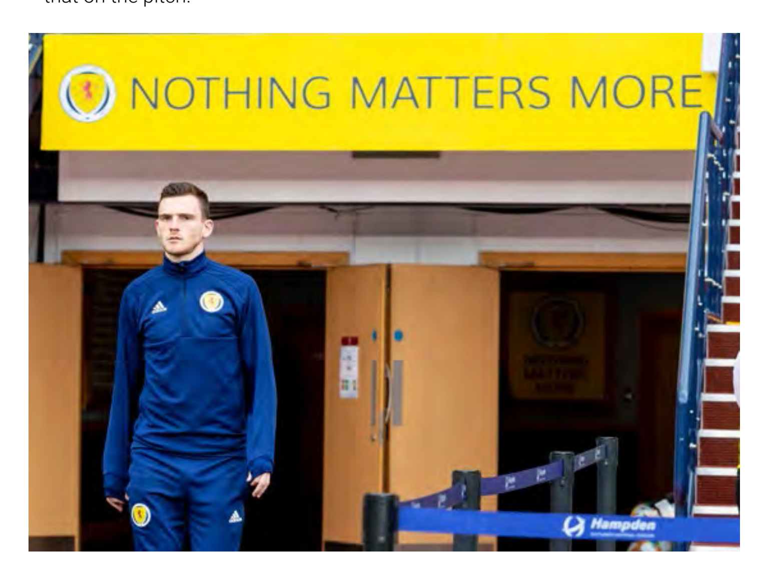
"I'm always one to look forward not back," he explains. "To end the two long waits is something I was determined to do, and certainly something everyone involved with the squads were too. The day you sign with Liverpool you start to understand how desperate the fans were for that Premier League title and I was so happy to be a part of the squad that managed to deliver that for them. It's the same with Scotland.

"The Tartan Army have missed going to tournaments and it's been a whole generation now. So to end the two waits is massive and such a good achievement by both squads."

Once this summer's Euros extravaganza is over, Robertson will recharge his batteries ready to go again and try to help achieve more success with club and country.

"Next on the agenda is to qualify for the World Cup with Scotland and to win more trophies with Liverpool," he says. "I want to continue to progress in both teams and to progress as a player. I always want to improve in every way and I'm certainly trying to do that.

"I'm not unhappy with what I've got, but I'm a wee bit greedy and I want a bit more because I believe there's a bit more to come with the potential that is there in both squads. Hopefully we can start to realise that on the pitch."



BREAKING GROUND

Andy Robertson will become the first Liverpool player to represent Scotland in a European Championship finals.

Future Red Gary McAllister, then with Leeds United, appeared for the Scots in both of their previous appearances in 1992 and 1996, captaining his country at the latter.

Back in Sweden '92, only eight teams contested the finals with the Scots drawn against Holland, Germany and the Confederation of Independent States (CIS) in their group.

They lost 1-0 to Holland in Gothenburg with a goal from Dennis Bergkamp proving to be their undoing, while they were then beaten 2-0 by Germany in Norrkoping with ex-Red Karlheinz Riedle among the scorers. Andy Roxburgh's men did defeat CIS 3-0 in their final group game in Norkopping with McAllister among the scorers from the penalty spot, but it was not enough to send them into the semi-finals.

Four years later, the tournament had expanded to 16 teams and Scotland missed out on a place in the quarter-finals in England by the narrowest of margins.

Now under the management of Craig Brown, they held Holland to a goalless draw in their opening game at Villa Park before heading to Wembley for an eagerly awaited clash with Terry Venables' England. Gary Mac famously missed a penalty as second-half goals from Alan Shearer and Paul Gascoigne gave the hosts a 2-0 victory.

Scotland then went on to beat Switzerland 1-0 back at Villa Park thanks to a goal from Ally McCoist, meaning that they finished level on points and goal difference (-1) with Holland.

However, the Dutch went through on goals scored, ironically courtesy of a late consolation from Patrick Kluivert in their 4-1 defeat by England at Wembley.

Away from Scotland, Euro 2020 – delayed from last summer – will the 10th European Championship to feature players from Liverpool FC. Roger Hunt was the first Red to feature in the tournament at Euro '68 in Italy, while a club-record 12 Liverpool players – Jordan Henderson, James Milner, Adam Lallana, Daniel Sturridge, Nathaniel Clyne, Joe Allen, Danny Ward, Divock Origi, Simon Mignolet, Christian Benteke, Emre Can and Martin Sktrel – went to Euro 2016 in France.



Euros Zone

The next month of the footballing calendar is dominated by the delayed 2020 European Championship. Here's a look at the group games, key dates and the Redmen involved

UEFA Euro 2020

11 June to 11 July

Group A

Turkey, Italy, Wales, Switzerland
Featuring: Xherdan Shaqiri (Switzerland), Ozan Kabak (Turkey), Neco Williams and Harry Wilson (Wales).

Xherdan Shaiqiri's Switzerland topped Group D ahead of Denmark. Shaq could take his cap count well into the 90s at the finals and has previously scored at the Euros, netting against Poland in 2016. He's the leading scorer in their squad.

Wales qualified for the second successive time after making an impressive debut at the finals in France 2016 when they reached the semi-finals before going out to eventual winners Portugal. The Dragons are led at the tournament by Robert Page and finished as runners-up behind Croatia in Group E. Harry Wilson was on target in the qualifying win at Azerbaijan in Baku in November 2019 while Neco Williams was incredibly harshly sent off for handball in a warm-up match against Euro 2020 favourites and world champions France.

Meanwhile, loanee Ozan Kabak is at the tournament with Turkey, who are appearing at the finals for the fifth time. They were impressive in qualifying and lost just once, finishing as runners-up behind France in Group H. Ozan made his full debut in the qualifying win against Andorra in November 2019.

REDS IN ACTION

MATCHDAY ONE
Wales v Switzerland in Baku on 12 June

MATCHDAY TWO
Turkey v Wales in Baku on 16 June
Italy v Switzerland in Rome on 16 June

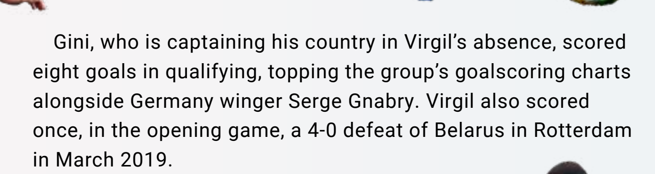
MATCHDAY THREE
Switzerland v Turkey in Baku on 20 June
Italy v Wales v in Rome on 20 June

Group C

Austria, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Ukraine
Featuring: Gini Wijnaldum.

With injury ruling Netherlands captain Virgil van Dijk out of the Euros, Gini Wijnaldum starts the tournament as a Liverpool man and will end it as an ex-player with his contract expiring on 30 June.

The Dutch are making their 10th appearance at the finals and come up against one of the two debutants, North Macedonia, in the group stages. The Oranje, winners in 1988, qualified as runners-up to Germany in Group C and will be keen to make an impact after failing to reach the 2016 Euros or the 2018 World Cup.



Gini, who is captaining his country in Virgil's absence, scored eight goals in qualifying, topping the group's goalscoring charts alongside Germany winger Serge Gnabry. Virgil also scored once, in the opening game, a 4-0 defeat of Belarus in Rotterdam in March 2019.

REDS IN ACTION

MATCHDAY ONE
Netherlands v Ukraine in Amsterdam on 13 June

MATCHDAY TWO
Netherlands v Austria in Amsterdam on 17 June

MATCHDAY THREE
North Macedonia v Netherlands on 21 June

Group D

Croatia, Czech Republic, England, Scotland
Featuring: Jordan Henderson (England), Andy Robertson (Scotland).

Andy Robertson achieves a childhood ambition by leading Scotland at a major tournament finals. The play-off winners are making their third appearance at the Euros after playing in the 1992 and 1996 editions. Indeed, it is the Scots' first major tournament finals since France 1998, when Robbo was a four-year-old boy.

The Scots, managed by ex-Reds assistant boss Steve Clarke, face the Auld Enemy in England at Wembley in the pick of their group games.

England boss Gareth Southgate included Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson and Trent Alexander-Arnold in his original 26-man squad before Trent had to withdraw after sustaining a thigh injury late in the warm-up friendly against Austria at Middlesbrough on 2 June. He joins club mate Joe Gomez in missing out on the tournament due to injury.

The Three Lions are playing in their 10th Euro finals after topping Group A in qualifying, with seven wins out of eight. Captain Harry Kane was their main marksman with a dozen goals, but England have never reached the final.

REDS IN ACTION

MATCHDAY ONE
England v Croatia at Wembley on 13 June
Scotland v Czech Republic at Hampden Park on 14 June

MATCHDAY TWO
England v Scotland at Wembley on 18 June

MATCHDAY THREE
Croatia v Scotland at Hampden Park on 22 June
Czech Republic v England at Wembley on 22 June

Group E

Spain, Sweden, Poland, Slovakia
Featuring: Thiago Alcantara.

Given his stellar career and the fact he made his international debut in 2011, it seems surprising that Thiago has yet to reach the 50-cap mark for his country.

Head coach Luis Enrique is expected to use the Reds midfielder on the right of a midfield three as the three-times winners look to achieve further glory, although their preparations were disrupted when Sergio Busquets tested postive for COVID-19.

Spain were unbeaten in topping Group F in qualifying, finishing comfortably clear of runners-up Sweden and Thiago will be hoping to follow ex-Reds and 2008 winners Xabi Alonso, Fernando Torres, Pepe Reina and Alvaro Arbeloa in getting his hands upon the Henri Delaunay Cup.

REDS IN ACTION

MATCHDAY ONE
Spain v Sweden in Seville on 14 June
MATCHDAY TWO
Spain v Poland in Seville on 19 June
MATCHDAY THREE
Slovakia v Spain in Seville on 23 June

Group F

France, Germany, Hungary, Portugal
Featuring: Diogo Jota.

Portugal are aiming to defend their European Championship title, something only Spain have done previously when retaining the trophy in 2012.

Fernando Santos' team – who also won the inaugural UEFA Nations League in 2019 – were victorious in five of their eight qualifiers and lost once, a 2-1 reverse to table-toppers Ukraine in Kiev in October 2019.

They qualified as runners-up in Group B, finishing behind unbeaten Ukraine, but were the highest scorers in their group with 22 goals, half of which were scored by team talisman Cristiano Ronaldo.

Jota made his senior Portugal debut as a late substitute for Ronaldo in the 6-0 qualifying win against Lithuania in Faro in November 2019 and netted three goals in two World Cup qualifying games in March.

REDS IN ACTION



MATCHDAY ONE
Hungary v Portugal in Budapest on 15 June
MATCHDAY TWO
Portugal v Germany in Munich on 19 June
MATCHDAY THREE
Portugal v France in Budapest on 23 June

ROUND OF 16
Matches to be played on 26, 27, 28 and 29 June
QUARTER-FINALS
Matches to be played on 2 and 3 July
SEMI-FINALS
Matches to be played on 6 and 7 July at Wembley
FINAL
To be played on 11 July at Wembley

Brazil aiming to defend Copa Crown

Meanwhile, a trio of Brazilian Reds have returned to home soil for the 2021 Copa America tournament.

Alisson Becker, Fabinho and Roberto Firmino are aiming to help their country defend the title they won in Brazil in 2019. The latest edition of the competition was set to be co-hosted by Colombia and Argentina, but both nations were removed as hosts in May and Brazil stepped in to hold it again.

The Copa America, which like the Euros has been delayed from last year, sees the Selecao drawn in Group B in the qualifying rounds of the tournament, which runs from 13 June to 10 July.

Brazil, who are looking to win the tournament for the 10th time, face Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador and Peru in the initial stage.



Conmebol Copa America 2021

13 June to 10 July

GROUP B

Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela
Featuring: Alisson Becker, Fabinho, Roberto Firmino.



MATCHDAY ONE
Brazil v Venezuela in Brasilia on 13 June
MATCHDAY TWO
Peru v Brazil in Rio on 17 June
MATCHDAY THREE
Colombia v Brazil in Rio on 23 June
MATCHDAY FOUR
Ecuador v Brazil in Goiania on 27 June

QUARTER-FINALS
Matches to be played on 2 and 3 July
SEMI-FINALS
Matches to be played on 5 and 6 July
FINAL
To be played on 10 July in Rio

JUN / JUL

WHAT'S ON



FIXTURE LIST TO BE REVEALED

Anticipation for the new Premier League season will intensify on Wednesday 16 June when the fixtures for the 2021/22 campaign are officially released.

The provisional game dates will be revealed at 9am and Reds across the globe will be no doubt scouring the list for those key dates against Everton, Manchester United, Manchester City and more.

There will be clashes with Norwich City and Watford again after the pair bounced back from relegation in 2019/20 by claiming the two automatic promotion spots.

They will be joined back in the top-flight by play-off winners Brentford with the Bees facing the Reds in league action for the first time since Liverpool's post-war title-winning campaign of 1946/47.

Kopites will also be able to discover the identity of the Reds' opponents for what will hopefully be the first Premier League game at Anfield in front of a full house since March 2020.

The new top-flight campaign is scheduled to begin on 14 August and end on 22 May 2022. Make sure to log on to Liverpoolfc.com at 9am BST on 16 June to discover who the Reds will play when – and we'll include the full fixture list in next month's edition.


WILLIAMS
46
standard chartered
66

JUN/JUL

WHAT'S ON

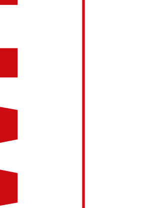


BACK AT IT

Members of the Reds' squad will return for pre-season training on 12 July.

It will be the first time that they have reported back after the summer to their new training base at the AXA Training Centre in Kirkby and they will be put through their paces ahead of a series of friendly fixtures to take place in July and August.

The players will again return at staggered times with those progressing to the latter stages of the Copa America and the European Championship, which are scheduled to finish on 10 and 11 July respectively, given a break before retraining their focus on club matters.



ALL THOSE YEARS AGO...

ANNIVERSARIES

6 years since Roberto Firmino joined the Reds on 24 June 2015.
10 years since Jordan Henderson signed from Sunderland on 9 June 2011.
12 years since John Achterberg was appointed Reserves goalkeeping coach on 9 June 2009.
18 years since Michael Owen became the youngest England man to 50 caps on 11 June 2003.
31 years since Ronny Rosenthal signed permanently on 29 June 1990.
34 years since winger John Barnes joined the Reds from Watford on 9 June 1987.
37 years since Graeme Souness left for Sampdoria on 12 June 1984.
54 years since Ray Clemence signed for the club on 24 June 1967.

And it's one year since Liverpool were crowned Premier League champions on 25 June 2020

The scenes are still fresh in the memory after Liverpool's 30-year wait for a league title was finally ended – with a helping hand from Chelsea.

Having produced a fine display the previous evening to thrash Crystal Palace 4-0 in the first game played behind closed doors at Anfield since Project Restart, Jürgen Klopp and his squad gathered together safely to watch Chelsea's clash with Manchester City at Stamford Bridge knowing that City needed a victory against Frank Lampard's men to keep their mathematical interest in the title race going.

Goals from Christian Pulisic and a Willian penalty helped Chelsea win the game 2-1 and leave Liverpool 23 points clear at the top with seven games remaining.

At the final whistle, social media captured videos of the Reds celebrating joyously at Formby Hall Golf Resort and Spa.

Later that evening, an emotional Klopp spoke of his delight at leading the club to a first title in the Premier League era.

"It's the best thing I can imagine and more than I could have ever dreamed of. It's unbelievable," he told Sky Sports. "Much more than I ever thought would be possible."

Klopp, who was wearing a Liverpool shirt during his interview, added: "Becoming champions with this club is absolutely incredible. It is an incredible achievement from my players...and a pure joy for me to coach them."

Skipper Jordan Henderson was quick, in turn, to pay tribute to his manager.

"I felt from day one when he came in the door he changed everything," he said. "We followed him and believed him. It's been an amazing journey. I'm hoping there is more – we just stay hungry, keep wanting more and following him."



BIRTHDAYS

Alan Hansen 66 on 13 June
Mo Salah 29 on 15 June
Jürgen Klopp 54 on 16 June
Jordan Henderson 31 on 17 June
Bjorn Tore Kvarme 49 on 17 June
Jason McAteer 50 on 18 June
Rachel Furness 33 on 19 June
Luis Garcia 43 on 24 June
Craig Johnston 61 on 25 June
Jamie Redknapp 48 on 25 June
Dejan Lovren 32 on 5 July
Virgil van Dijk 30 on 8 July



Quorn™

HELPING THE PLANET ONE MATCH AT A TIME

TRY GOING MEAT FREE WITH OUR DELICIOUS RED RECIPES

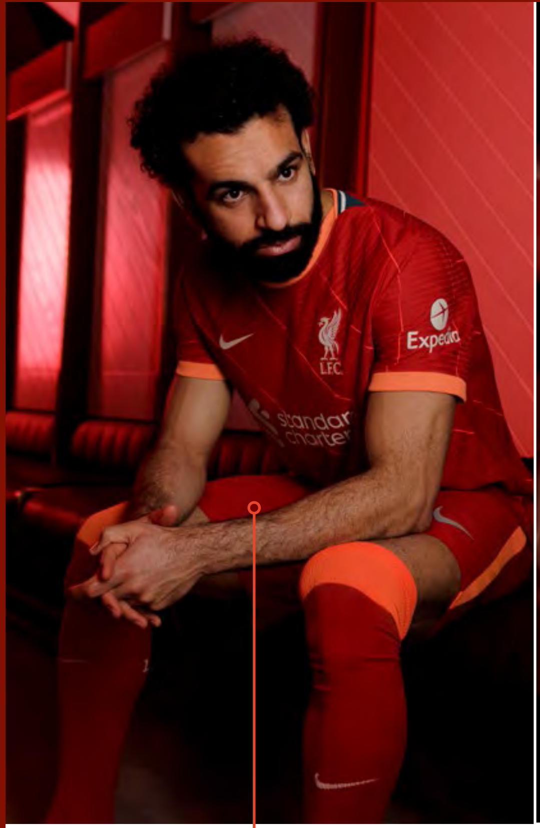


#MEATFREEMATCHDAYS

See more at: www.quorn.co.uk/lfc-red-recipes

Quorn Mince & Pieces achieved 'Reducing CO^2' certification by the Carbon Trust for the full life cycle of the product. Quorn Mince carbon footprint is 90% lower than beef mince. Quorn Pieces carbon footprint is 70% lower than chicken (cradle to gate). See Quorn.co.uk/TV for details.

WHAT'S IN

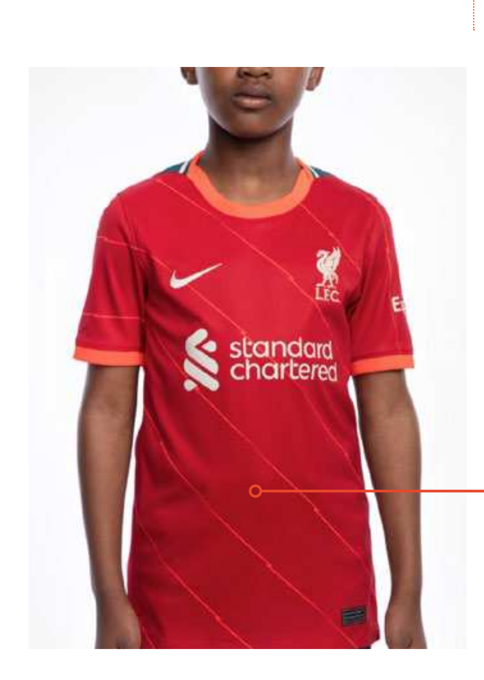




LFC NIKE MENS HOME STADIUM SHORTS 21/22
£34.95

LFC NIKE MENS HOME STADIUM JERSEY 21/22
£69.95

LFC NIKE HOME STADIUM SOCKS 21/22
£14.95



LFC NIKE JUNIOR HOME STADIUM SHORTS 21/22
£29.95

LFC NIKE JUNIOR HOME STADIUM JERSEY 21/22
£54.95



STORE

IT'S HERE: LIVERPOOL FC NIKE 21/22 HOME KIT AND KIT-INSPIRED BABYWEAR



LFC NIKE WOMENS HOME STADIUM JERSEY 21/22
£69.95



LFC BABY 21/22 HOME SLEEPSUIT
£15





LFC BABY 21/22 HOME SHORT SET
£15



LFC BABY 21/22 HOME BODYSUIT
£10



LFC NIKE INFANT HOME KIT 21/22
£44.95

LFC NIKE BABY HOME KIT 21/22
£39.95

Shop for all your Liverpool FC essentials in Official Club Stores and at liverpoolfc.com/store and for more details follow @LFCRetail on Twitter and Instagram! Terms and conditions apply.





AUGUST		SCORE	TV	SCORERS
Sat 29	Arsenal (CS, N)	1-1*	BT	Minamino (pens: Salah, Fabinho, Minamino, Jones)
SEPTEMBER				
Sat 12	**Leeds United (H)**	**4-3**	**Sky**	**Salah 3 (2 pens), Van Dijk**
Sun 20	Chelsea (A)	2-0	Sky	Mane 2
Thu 24	Lincoln City (Carabao Cup 3, A)	7-2	Sky	Shaqiri, Minamino 2, Jones 2, Grujic, Origi
Mon 28	**Arsenal (H)**	**3-1**	**Sky**	**Mane, Robertson, Jota**
OCTOBER				
Thu 01	**Arsenal (Carabao Cup 4, H)**	**0-0***	**Sky**	**(pens: Milner, Wijnaldum, Minamino, Jones)**
Sun 04	Aston Villa (A)	2-7	Sky	Salah 2
Sat 17	Everton (A)	2-2	BT	Mane, Salah
Wed 21	Ajax (UCL Matchday 1, A)	1-0	BT	Tagliafico (OG)
Sat 24	**Sheffield United (H)**	**2-1**	**Sky BO**	**Firmino, Jota**
Tue 27	**FC Midtjylland (UCL Matchday 2, H)**	**2-0**	**BT**	**Jota, Salah (pen)**
Sat 31	**West Ham United (H)**	**2-1**	**Sky**	**Salah (pen), Jota**
NOVEMBER				
Tue 03	Atalanta (UCL Matchday 3, A)	5-0	BT	Jota 3, Salah, Mane
Sun 08	Manchester City (A)	1-1	Sky	Salah (pen)
Sat 21	**Leicester City (H)**	**3-0**	**Sky**	**Evans (OG), Jota, Firmino**
Wed 25	**Atalanta (UCL Matchday 4, H)**	**0-2**	**BT**	
Sat 28	Brighton & Hove Albion (A)	1-1	BT	Jota
DECEMBER				
Tue 01	**Ajax (UCL Matchday 5, H)**	**1-0**	**BT**	**Jones**
Sun 06	**Wolverhampton Wanderers (H)**	**4-0**	**AP**	**Salah, Wijnaldum, Matip, Semedo (OG)**
Wed 09	FC Midtjylland (UCL Matchday 6, A)	1-1	BT	Salah
Sun 13	Fulham (A)	1-1	Sky	Salah (pen)
Wed 16	**Tottenham Hotspur (H)**	**2-1**	**AP**	**Salah, Firmino**
Sat 19	Crystal Palace (A)	7-0	BT	Firmino 2, Salah 2, Minamino, Mane, Henderson
Sun 27	**West Bromwich Albion (H)**	**1-1**	**Sky**	**Mane**
Wed 30	Newcastle United (A)	0-0	AP	
JANUARY				
Mon 04	Southampton (A)	0-1	Sky	
Fri 08	Aston Villa (FA Cup 3, A)	4-1	BT	Mane 2, Wjnaldum, Salah
Sun 17	**Manchester United (H)**	**0-0**	**Sky**	
Thu 21	**Burnley (H)**	**0-1**	**Sky**	
Sat 23	Manchester United (FA Cup 4, A)	2-3	BBC	Salah 2
Thu 28	Tottenham Hotspur (A)	3-1	BT	Firmino, Alexander-Arnold, Mane
Sun 31	West Ham United (A)	3-1	Sky	Salah 2, Wijnaldum
FEBRUARY				
Wed 03	**Brighton & Hove Albion (H)**	**0-1**	**BT**	
Sun 07	**Manchester City (H)**	**1-4**	**Sky**	**Salah (pen)**
Sat 13	Leicester City (A)	1-3	BT	Salah
Tue 16	RB Leipzig (UCL R of 16 1, A)	2-0	BT	Salah, Mane
Sat 20	**Everton (H)**	**0-2**	**Sky**	
Sun 28	Sheffield United (A)	2-0	Sky	Jones, Bryan (OG)
MARCH				
Thu 04	**Chelsea (H)**	**0-1**	**Sky**	**Sky**
Sun 07	**Fulham (H)**	**0-1**	**Sky**	
Wed 10	**RB Leipzig (UCL R of 16 2, H)**	2-0	BT	Salah, Mane
Mon 15	Wolverhampton Wanderers (A)	1-0	Sky	Jota
APRIL				
Sat 03	Arsenal (A)	3-0	Sky	Jota 2, Salah
Tue 06	Real Madrid (UCL Q-F 1, A)	1-3	BT	Salah
Sat 10	**Aston Villa (H)**	**2-1**	**Sky**	**Salah, Alexander-Arnold**
Wed 14	Real Madrid (UCL Q-F 2, H)	0-0	BT	
Mon 19	Leeds United (A)	1-1	Sky	Mane
Sat 24	**Newcastle United (H)**	**1-1**	**BT**	**Salah**
MAY				
Sat 08	**Southampton (H)**	**2-0**	**Sky**	**Mane, Thiago**
Thu 13	Manchester United (A)	4-2	Sky	Jota, Firmino 2, Salah
Sun 16	West Bromwich Albion (A)	2-1	Sky	Salah, Alisson
Wed 19	Burnley (A)	3-0	Sky	Firmino, Phillips, Oxlade-Chamberlain
Sun 23	**Crystal Palace (H)**	**2-0**	**Sky**	**Mane 2**

*lost 5-4 on pens


Stadium Tours
and Experiences
L.F.C.
FEEL THE
MAGIC OF
ANFIELD.
Unmissable. Immersive.
The LFC Stadium Tour.



NEIL MELLOR

Gini Wijnaldum has been a big part of Liverpool's success under Jürgen Klopp and he must be replaced this summer

Securing Champions League qualification in third position was a great finish to the season for Liverpool. In March we were all thinking that Jürgen Klopp's side wouldn't make the top four, so to take 26 points from the final 30 available was an incredible finale to a disrupted season.

Klopp fielded 16 different central defensive partnerships in the Premier League. Sixteen! That is unheard of, and it also impacted on the goalkeeper, full-backs and midfield. The understanding they had with Virgil van Dijk, Joe Gomez and Joel Matip was lost, so with that in mind it is an absolute credit to the whole squad that they still conceded fewer goals than runners-up Manchester United.

Between Christmas and March there was a period when Liverpool weren't clinical in the final third. Confidence, being wasteful, poor decision making and opponents like Fulham's centre-half and Newcastle's goalkeeper raising their games to inspired levels all proved costly, as did the lack of supporters at Anfield. There is no way Fulham, Burnley and Brighton would come to Anfield and think they could have a go at us with supporters in the stadium.

A lot of big VAR calls went against us too. Liverpool's ruled-out winner at Goodison Park was never offside, for instance, so when you accumulate all the things that went against us you have to conclude that qualifying for the Champions League represents a good season.

Work to challenge for the Premier League title again next season has already begun with the arrival of French U21 international centre-back Ibrahima Konate. During the injury crisis, Ozan Kabak came in on loan from Schalke and while I think he did well, if Liverpool want to compete for the Premier League and Champions League the manager has to consider which players can consistently perform at the top level.

Virgil, Gomez and Matip have proved they can and as well as Kabak and Nat Phillips did, the manager decided he needed another player to come in. That man is Konate.

There will also be a change in midfield with Gini Wijnaldum out of contract. He is a player who must be replaced. Wijnaldum goes unnoticed by many, but his contribution to the team has helped other players get noticed. He keeps things simple, keeps things moving and is happy to knit the play together with short passes backed up by great energy and the ability to cover a lot of ground.

Gini's win ratio of over 64% from 237 appearances is one of the best in the club's history, he's rarely injured and always plays with a smile on his face. He enjoyed playing for Liverpool Football Club and has been a big part of the success under Klopp with an outstanding contribution.

How Klopp replaces him will be interesting to see. Fabinho, Jordan Henderson and Thiago are different sorts of players. I think Liverpool need a midfielder who is happy to come in, be unselfish and play the Gini role rather than be a headline maker. Midfielders who keep a team ticking over to allow the attacking players to do their best are crucial and I trust LFC's recruitment team – who have been outstanding in recent years – to identify that player.

We also have James Milner, Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, Curtis Jones and Naby Keita, but can Naby stay fit? Keita is a great player, but we haven't been able to see the best of him over the last three years and there comes a time when the manager thinks 'can I trust him?' Klopp has shown such faith in Oxlade-Chamberlain and if he believes Keita can still make his mark then I expect him to retain that trust, although we shouldn't forget the Africa Cup of Nations is held in January 2022.

With that tournament also likely to deprive Liverpool of Mo Salah and Sadio Mane – plus considering the amount of football they and Roberto Firmino have played – I think the Reds need another forward.

Diogo Jota has been a great buy and while we won't be seeing a £90 million striker coming in this summer, another Jota-style signing or two would freshen up the forward line and give the manager the options he needs when the Africa Cup of Nations takes place.



• Follow Neil on Twitter @NeilMellor33

STOP THE HATE
STAND UP
REPORT IT

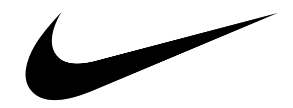
LIVERPOOLFC.COM/REPORTABUSE















WE ARE PLEASED TO RECOGNISE THE OFFICIAL PARTNERS OF LIVERPOOL FC











































